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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Memo Urges Arab League To Expel Kuwait

JN2409140291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1221 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (INA)—Iraq has urged the Arab League General Secretariat to expel Kuwait from membership in the Arab League because the rulers of Kuwait have signed the so-called defense cooperation pact with the United States.

A memorandum submitted yesterday to the General Secretariat by Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League says that the pact contains provisions that make it easy for U.S. forces to stay in Kuwait, stockpile weapons and military equipment, and use unspecified ports in Kuwait for 10 years.

In its memorandum, Iraq refuted the Kuwaiti rulers' excuses for concluding the pact, describing them as false and weak because the pact exceeds what the rulers of Kuwait claim as their right to self-defense and sovereignty and threatens the region's security and stability, especially Iraq's national security and pan-Arab security. The following is the text of the memorandum:

The Iraqi Republic's Foreign Ministry extends its most heartfelt greetings to the Arab League General Secretariat and has the honor to refer to what was announced on 20 September 1991 concerning the Kuwaiti rulers signing the so-called defense cooperation pact with the United States. This pact contains provisions extending facilities to the U.S. forces in Kuwait and allows the stockpiling of weapons and military equipment and the use of unspecified ports in Kuwait. The pact will last 10 years.

The Kuwaiti rulers' excuses to conclude the pact are false and weak because it exceeds what they call the right to self-defense and sovereignty claimed by the Kuwaiti rulers and threatens the region's security and stability, especially Iraq's national security and pan-Arab security. The pact seeks the help of a foreign state known for its continued hostility toward the Arab nation's higher interests and for its flagrant bias toward and support for the Zionist enemy to continue its usurpation of Palestine and its occupation of the other Arab territories.

If the Kuwait rulers feel the need for military assistance as they claim, then why do they not seek the assistance of Arab forces instead of foreign forces? The Arab League Charter and the joint defense and economic cooperation treaty between the Arab states provide for this. However, they intentionally allied themselves with a foreign country that has known ambitions. This is a clear violation of Article 10 of the treaty, which stipulates that each signatory country pledges not to conclude any international agreement that would contradict this treaty, and not to pursue a path in its international relations that would run contrary to the objectives of the treaty.

Moreover, the Kuwait rulers, by extending these military facilities to the United States, are opening the doors for the return of colonization to a region that sacrificed a great deal to rid itself of foreign occupation and attain complete national independence.

This agreement to slavery embodies the real objectives the U.S. Administration sought through its brutal aggression on Iraq; namely, dominating the destiny of the region, having full hegemony over its will, plundering its oil wealth, and enslaving its peoples.

The Foreign Ministry would like to explain that when the Kuwaiti rulers took this very grave step, it lost its status as an independent state with a free will. Kuwait no longer enjoys this status, which would otherwise perpetuate its qualification for membership in the Arab League based on Article 1 of the League Charter.

In light of these facts, Kuwait's continued membership in the Arab League is no longer legal, not to mention the harm it causes to League member states and the threat it makes to their security and stability and the interests of their peoples. Due to the deliberate violation of the articles of the Charter and the joint defense and economic cooperation treaty, the immediate consideration of its expulsion from the Arab League is required.

The Ministry would like this memorandum to be distributed among the members states, and to be adopted as an official document of the Arab League.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to express its great appreciation and respect for the Arab League General Secretariat in Cairo.

Protests U-2 Flights, Saudi Help

JN2509102191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (INA)—Iraq has filed a protest with the Arab League against the continuation of the infamous U.S. U-2 spy plane's violation of Iraqi airspace, noting that the plane is flying from Saudi Arabia on the pretext of conducting an aerial survey for the special UN committee.

In a memorandum to the General Secretariat, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative explained that this is the seventh time in 40 days that the U-2 has entered Iraqi airspace. He said the plane flew over Iraqi territory for approximately four hours.

He added that this new violation of Iraqi airspace reconfirms that the plane's mission is a long way from the special committee mission endorsed by Security Council Resolution 687.

He said that what is happening is an exposed spying operation in the name of the United Nations and under cover of the special committee, with facilities provided by an Arab country.

The memorandum noted that this infraction and repeated act of spying and aggression confirms that the

Saudi approval of this act and the facilities it provides for acts of aggression, in addition to the Saudi authorities' disregard of the Iraqi Government's protests, will undoubtedly create a serious precedent in Arab relations and will be targeted at other Arab countries. This Saudi act also violates the Arab League Charter, he noted.

Promises To Discuss Kuwaiti POW Releases

NC1909162591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1531 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that he has received assurances from the Iraqi Government that it will cooperate with his adviser 'Abdallah Adam, whom he ordered to leave immediately for Baghdad to discuss the Kuwaiti prisoners with Iraqi officials.

Speaking before a Kuwaiti delegation of students whose parents are among the prisoners, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that the Arab League General Secretariat will do its best to ensure that the Kuwaiti prisoners are reunited with their families. [passage omitted]

Arab League Secretary Departs for UN Session

NC2209073091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for New York this morning to attend the 46th UN General Assembly session.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will hold intensive meetings with Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the General Assembly session to resume the discussions begun at the recent Arab League Council meeting in Cairo.

The Arab League secretary general also will meet with a large number of foreign ministers from the Islamic Conference Organization countries, the Nonaligned Movement, and Latin America.

To Meet Arab Foreign Ministers 25 Sep

NC2409131091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will meet on 25 September with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine at a lunch hosted by Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid at his residence in New York. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is participating in the 46th session of the UN General Assembly, and the luncheon will be attended by the permanent Arab delegates to the United Nations. The Arab League secretary general and the foreign ministers of the five countries participating in the peace conference scheduled for October will discuss ways these countries can prepare and coordinate with one another prior to the convening of the conference.

Frontline States To View Talks With Israel

PM2309115091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Unified Arab Strategy Within Context of Preparations for Peace Conference"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that representatives of the five frontline Arab states—Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine—are expected to hold their first coordination meeting at the end of the month or in the first week of next month, launching an important stage on the road to drawing up a unified Arab strategy for negotiation with Israel.

Informed sources said that the date of the meeting will be finally set following diplomatic contacts after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current tour of the Arab region and after Israel's and the Palestine National Council's coming meetings in Algiers, which are expected to produce a definitive decision on the issue of Palestinian representation at the peace conference.

The sources pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these meetings, which are expected to be held at foreign minister level, will take place within the framework of coordination with the Arab League General Secretariat. At its recent session, the Arab League Council entrusted the Secretariat with drawing up the foundations for coordination and consultation among the parties which will participate in the peace conference.

The sources pointed out that this Arab strategy will be based on several main axes that will define guidelines for the negotiation process with regard to legitimate Arab rights in the occupied territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

New Term Proposed for Arab-Israeli 'Dispute'

JN2209084991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] According to a report in the UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ, an Egyptian proposal to use the phrase the Arab-Israeli dispute [niza'] instead of the Arab-Israeli struggle [sira'] sparked controversy about terminology among the Arab foreign ministers during their meeting in Cairo last week.

The well-informed Gulf paper said that Egypt, which asked that the word dispute be substituted for struggle, had intended to prove Arab goodwill prior to the peace conference. The paper reported that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar rejected the proposal, prompting his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal to propose putting the question to a secret vote. This resulted in 17 Arab League members voting to retain the word struggle, while Kuwait, Oman, and Djibouti voted for the Egyptian proposal.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestine National Council Session Continues

Report on Occupied Land; Habash Speaks

LD2409185391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The 20th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC], which began yesterday, continued today with the discussion of the political file in light of the report by the PLO Political Department. It is expected that today's proceedings will be marked by interpolations of faction leaders, among whom there are some who reject the presence of the PLO in the peace conference. On what happened at the beginning of the second day's proceedings, and what is taking place now in the Palais des Nations, we open a direct line with the radio mission. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The proceedings of the second day began at about 1030 with the presentation of the main report on the occupied land. The report contained the history of the intifadah since its outbreak at the end of 1987, and the stages it has traversed so far. The report on the intifadah stressed that it cannot be expected that Palestine will be liberated with stones, firebombs, and knives, but there is a realization that the liberation process is an integrated one. The intifadah constitutes a basic factor of this process, and the Palestinian masses still have a great potential for struggle. All the masses believe that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. In its review of the circumstances in which the intifadah has developed, the report stressed the existence of three basic challenges in outlining the intifadah:

1. Challenges emanating from the Zionist occupation, the international community, and the developments witnessed. In this respect, the report affirmed that since the end of 1987, the intifadah has become a problem for Israel, and the Zionist administration tried by all means to liquidate this intifadah. Among the effects of the intifadah on Israel was the Zionist army's change from an advanced regular army into a purely police force whose task is to chase stone-throwing children. Afterward, Israel began to understand the reality of the intifadah, and undertook practical measures to face up to it, with the help of domestic possibilities and external factors. This led to further pressure on the intifadah, and to its becoming lost to the eyes of international public opinion. Among the Israeli attempts to abort the intifadah, and the tightening of the noose around the PLO, the report stressed that Israel resorted to introducing formalistic improvements in the livelihoods of the Palestinians so that they might be diverted from the line of the intifadah. [passage omitted]

2. The second challenge is the domestic challenge, a challenge inherent to the intifadah. This challenge concerns organization, financing, and policies.

—The challenge of the meaning of national unity. 'n this respect, the report stressed that unity guarantees the continuity of the intifadah, hence the importance of activating the leadership of the intifadah, because its leadership has become just a body issuing communiques. In the same line, national unity, the report stressed, I say that the intifadah, that the relationship with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] constitutes a basic obstacle in the understanding of national unity [sentence as heard]. Dialogue with the Hamas movement on unifying the leadership of the intifadah has broken down. But attempts continue to give value to this dialogue, given that the setting up of a relationship between the PLO and Hamas would help in expanding the network of the relationship with the interior.

—The political challenge: The report affirmed that the clarity of views of the PLO plays an important role in bolstering the intifadah, and helps in extending it and giving it momentum. Conversely, differences within the PLO would cause flaws in the ranks of the Palestinian people inside the occupied land.

3. The behavior challenge: This has contributed to impeding the intifadah in the shape of infiltration by wicked elements, the emergence of signs of tyranny over the people, the imposing of leaderships, and other sicknesses.

The report concluded that the intifadah is in dire need of $770 million in order to confront the enemies. The main thing one noticed during this morning session is the great chaos inside the hall, and the lack of interest in listening to the report on the occupied land, which is considered to be the most important report, alongside the report on general policies. There was great deal of talk—tete-a-tete and collectively—between delegates, a matter that led Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the council, to intervene several times to draw the attention of these delegates, and to tell those who would not listen to leave. He went as far as describing this chaos as immoral. [passage omitted]

It was agreed to open the general debate despite the demand by some for the submission of all the reports. [passage omitted]

Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], took the stand. Here is a report by our colleague Mohsen Sliman: about Dr Habash's interpolation so far:

Dr. Habash's interpolation was expected today. It is recalled that yesterday he asked to register his name for speaking immediately following the reading of the political report. Dr. Habash, the first speaker in the general debate, confined himself to two basic matters: first, the review and evaluation of the policy pursued by the PLO leadership since the PNC's 19th session; second, the evaluation of the political situation in which the PLO is now living, and the liquidation plot—as he called it,

instead of calling it the peace conference—which is being hatched by the U.S. Administration.

With regard to the first point, Dr. Habash recalled the stands of the PLFP four years ago, that is, at the time of the proclamation of the Palestinian state. He said that the PFLP did not approve of the concessions the PLO leadership had made then, including its acknowledgment of Resolution 242, which recognizes Israel.

In this regard, Dr. Habash said, there are two views of the matter. The first was that of the political leadership, which believed in the possible establishment of the Palestinian state on the basis of continuing the intifadah and international support in the climate of the international breakthrough, a matter that would soon accelerate the establishment of the Palestinian state. This view has prompted the PLO to rush into giving free concessions, including the recognition of Israel's right to exist, the abandonment of terrorism, the preparation for the revision of the Palestinian national charter, and the establishment of a disarmed state. This is in addition to the consideration of the diplomatic and political factors as the central link in the Palestinian struggle.

The second view, Dr. Habash said, was the one sponsored by the opposing forces headed by the PFLP.

Dr. George Habash's criticism of the PLO leadership and its political view also contained questions addressed to members of the PNC: What was the result of this tactic? Now that four years have passed, do you consider us being nearer to the establishment of the Palestine state; have we gone farther as a result of the 19th session of 1988?

Dr. George Habash's reply was, naturally, no. On the basis of this analysis, Dr. George Habash called upon the PLO leadership to realize the slogan of the Palestine state in accordance with the second view, which is based on the premise that the realization of the establishment of the Palestine state is a mission of struggle before it is a mission of diplomacy, which can be achieved by not being content with the formula of the continuation of the intifadah plus international support, but also by escalation of the intifadah and the infliction of human and economic losses on the Zionist enemy, with the affirmation of refraining from granting free concessions and adherence to international legitimacy.

With regard to the second matter dealt with by Dr. Habash, which concerns the changes and developments which he described as dramatic, he recalled that we are living in a world of one pole dominated by U.S. imperialism. He said that when they say that the peace conference is an opportunity that should not be missed, we say that it is the opportunity of Israel and the United States, not our's. This is because it is essentially aimed against the Palestine question and not its settlement, in view of the U.S. objective of liquidating spots of tension in the Middle East.

For this reason, Dr. Habash called for the rejection of this plot, as he called it, and for not succumbing to the U.S. proposals by refusing to join the peace conference.

This was a summary of the lengthy speech delivered by Dr. George Habash. At this moment, as we are talking to you, the leader of the PLFP is continuing his interpolation.

As to what is happening inside the Palais de Nations regarding the general direction of the meeting, especially the idea of the peace conference, colleague Mohamed Lahsan Chaiash wrote the following: It has been seen that most of the journalists' questions were summed up in one query: Will the council say yes or no to Palestinian participation in the international conference? Concerning this situation, a leading Palestinian expressed to me that it resembles someone afflicted with color blindness, so that he can only see black and white. He said that our opponents impose on us this type of question to embarrass us in front of internationl public opinion, although they themselves do not accept being asked questions of this kind.

On the basis of this, my interlocutor warned against the dubious statements emanating every now and then from some Palestinian officials and official spokesmen which do nothing but sow confusion among the Palestinian masses, as happened last night, for example. The Palestinian leader added that it is naive to expect the council to answer yes or no to the question posed. We shall answer by saying that we shall not obstruct peace. This means that the U.S. Government will not embark on convening an international peace conference in which the Palestinians do not take part, because they will reap nothing from it. The evidence is that the Camp David accord has not enabled Israel to live in peace within secure borders, as they say. This does not prevent one from saying, however, that the Palestinian cause has negatively been affected by what took place in the international and Arab arenas last year.

The great transformation in the Soviet Union has caused an imbalance in international forces which is not in favor of the Palestinian cause, while the Gulf war and its results have caused a similar imbalance in the Arab arena. On this basis, the council's specialized committees will study in depth the means to develop a Palestinian-Arab joint action, or at least an intensified and unified action with the Arab confrontation states. It goes without saying that should such an issue be realized, the United States would reconsider the gurantees which it refused to give to the Palestinians before entering the conference. But is it logical for the Palestinians to reach an effective degree of joint action with the confrontation states, while Palestinian action still requires reactivation? Nobody ignores the fact that the difference will be intense in the closed sessions of the council, between those who totally reject the conference, those requesting firm gurantees before participating, and those who neither accept nor reject it.

This issue may, first and before anything, affect the reaching of an internal Palestinian understanding. It is possible to overcome this phase by going back to the Palestinian peace program, endorsed in the council's 19th session in Algiers, and it is possible through its articles to invite the Americans to submit other proposals.

PLO Political Report

LD2409?23191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Report on "excerpts" from PLO Executive Committee political report delivered by Faruq Qaddumi, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Lutf, at 20th session of Palestinian National Council in Algiers on 24 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Brothers, brother Abu-Lutf in the PLO political report to members of the Palestinian National Council at their 20th session recalled the positive stand of the PLO toward the peace efforts.

[Qaddumi] We (?pressed) the United States to issue with us a joint statement, or if it wished, to issue a statement with the Soviet Union or with the five permanent members of the Security Council in which it should define the principles of a settlement, its course and timetable. But the United States did not accept all this. Instead, during Shamir's visit to the United States in May 1989, it adopted the Israeli initiative, known as the Shamir initiative, concerning conducting local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The United States submitted this Israeli intitiative to us as the sole opening to a settlement. We refused to accept this. The United States then came back to say that this is one of many openings to a settlement and that the United States considers it important that the PLO examine it. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] As for recent efforts to convene a peace conference in the area and the attitude of the PLO toward those efforts, brother Abu-Lutf said:

[Qaddumi] Since March, Secretary Baker has visited the area seven times. The Arab states concerned in the conflict announced their initial agreement with the U.S. initiative and reacted positively to it. We acted positively toward his mission. Our brothers in Jerusalem met with Mr. Baker many times. The conversation between him and them touched on a future political settlement. The PLO leadership provided the brothers inside with clear instructions and directives to convey to Mr. Baker clearly. They announced that they were entrusted with this task by the PLO leadership in Tunis.

Therefore, all that has taken place until now is within the framework of PLO policy and an expression of its desire to arrive at a just and comprehensive settlement. Through all these numerous meetings we have had some details on the content of the settlement and the U.S. precedure to achieve it. We also conveyed to the United States our view and our stand toward what they have proposed.

We received direct answers to them. We did not need a middleman between us, lest we fall victim to misunderstanding or misinterpretation or that there should be any middleman. [passage omitted]

Since the beginning of the U.S. move we have been trying to unify the Arab position; we have been trying to coordinate the Arab sides that are directly involved—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine as a first stage. [passage omitted]. We are also in constant touch with the friendly Soviet Union concerning the issue of a settlement, and also with the PRC, the EC, and the nonaligned countries to win their support.

[Announcer] Brother Abu-Lutf concluded the political report of the PLO Executive Committee by saying:

[Qaddumi] Mr. Chairman, sisters and brothers. Since the last session of our national council until now, events and changes have taken place in the world which we did not expect to witness. They affected the historical course of man and the socities in which man lives. [passage omitted] At the same time, we felt the effect of these events on us and their weight on our political movement and our need to react positively to them by virtue of them being new facts, and that there is no way of trying to avoid them or not dealing with them. [passage omitted]

Other factors and centers of power have emerged. We must take them all into account. We are facing a new world, not necessarily an American world. We are facing international efforts that seek a political settlement of the Middle East crisis. The outlines of these efforts were defined generally. In this historical sweeping current in which we are marching cautiously and vigilantly we are fully aware of the truth about the change in the methods and instruments of struggle in this fast-moving and changing world.

Nations are like individuals; they can resist and live because they are able to absorb and adjust to new circumstances. What is offered to our Palestinian people today? It could be the minimum of our national rights. This minimum cannot easily be seized from an enemy who does not hide his ambitions in all Palestine. We all know the power of his influence at the centers of international decisionmaking today. International relations are based on interests. Politics is the art of the possible. We should look at the political initiative which is being put forward today from this viewpoint.

Proceeding from its desire to take care of its interests and to perpetuate its international leadership, the United States cannot ignore the chronic problem of the Middle East. It will make great efforts to find a solution, but we do not have the slightest illusion that it will first of all consider Israel's interests. But with the same objectivity, we must see U.S. President George Bush's disagreement

with the American Jewish lobby and his defiance of its influence on Congress, which made him make statements in which he publicly expressed that the interests of the United States are not necessarily identical with Israel's.

We are facing a stage requiring the maximum degrees of courage, prudence, self-confidence, and reason. We should also prepare ourselves for the possibilities of engaging in difficult and tiring negotiations with an enemy who does not lack the means of cunning and trickery to gain time in order to implement his plans which are clear to all of us, namely to continue the building of settlements and emptying the West Bank and Gaza Strip of the sons of our Palestinian people. We must take into consideration the fact that about 65 percent of the land in the West Bank and the Strip have been seized up to now.

Brothers, yes, we are for the convening of the international peace conference. We pointed out the positive signs in the speech of President Bush on a political settlement. We agreed that our brothers on the occupied land should hold talks with Mr. Baker on clear bases which are still the subject of give and take. From the beginning we made sure that we would not raise thorny issues so that they would not give an opportunity to someone who may allege that we are an obstacle in the way of peaceful efforts.

We asserted international legitimacy and the UN resolutions concerning the issue, including the two UN Security Council resolutions which call for complete withdrawal from Arab and Palestinian territories. We demanded the application of point 4 of the Geneva agreement and the suspension and removal of settlements; we demanded our Palestinian people's legitimate right to return, to self-determination, and the building of their independent state whose capital is holy Jerusalem; and also their absolute right to choose their representatives in freedom and through their legitimate and sole representative—the PLO.

To consolidate this unchanging Palestinian position, we must continue to support our national unity on the basis of a clear and defined political line which we establish, and to be committed to it, and we should deal as one complementary team in its implementation. National consensus is a vital issue and must be safeguarded, and one should strive toward realizing it through spreading comprehensive enlightenment among the sons of our people and mobilizing its energies in the direction of serving the desired objective while we safeguard our democratic and tolerant traditions. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, we see that the coming step that we will be taking will be the great step toward the homeland and its sacred earth. If we succeed in putting our feet on its soil we would thus have realized our greatest achievement up to now. But we do not deny to you that the step is fraught with danger. We are proceeding with slow but firm steps. We are exploring the positions of our coming steps in order to make certain of the adroitness and correctness of our decisions.

'Arafat on Session, Conference

LD2409231491 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by correspondent Abdelkader Ma'm; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ma'm] Mr. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Palestine National Council is holding its session now, during these crucial circumstances. The Palestinians are faced with the issue of finding a formula that can unite them in the search for peace, while the peace conference is about to take place. Can Mr. Abu-'Ammar extract the agreement from the Palestinians that would allow him to enter negotiations?

['Arafat] The first thing that I would like to say is that I am not trying to extract permission. No, we are a democratic movement. It is the representatives of the Palestinian people who decide.

[Ma'm] I am addressing you as president.

['Arafat] I am not in the business of extracting agreement. I do not extract, and I do not impose my opinion. However, whatever my brothers decide inside this arena, and whatever my brothers decide within the Palestinian parliament will be my guide and aid along this path.

[Ma'm] Everybody is searching for peace. Every side is now searching for peace.

['Arafat] Likewise, we seek peace, not capitulation. We reject the Israeli capitulation. Nevertheless, we seek the Palestinian peace—this peace that we adopted during our initiative announced here in Algeria, the land of one and a half million martyrs, here in the warm Algerian heart, in 1988 when we announced the Palestinian peace initiative, when we announced the birth of the Palestinian state. On that occasion one brother Algerian came to me, with tears streaming from his eyes, and told me: Now that we have established the Palestinian state, we can say that we have answered and responded to the first Zionist conference that convened in Basle when they proclaimed: A land with no people for a people without land. They obviously meant that the land of Palestine had no people. We would like to stress: On the contrary, the land of Palestine has a people. It is the Palestinian people. This people has a right to establish its independent state in accordance with international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

[Ma'm] Right, Mr. Abu-'Ammar. The United States opposes the PLO's participation in this conference. At the same time, it finds itself falling into a contradiction, which is as follows: The United States is searching for peace; yet, the Palestinian side plays a role in this peace. How do you visualize this peace?

['Arafat] I would like to ask the following question: With whom are they going to make peace? Is it with Qatar, or Bahrain?

[Ma'm] Obviously with the Palestinians.

['Arafat] With whom did the French make peace?

[Ma'm] With the Algerians.

['Arafat] Right. In Angola, with whom did the Portuguese make peace? With the Angolans. In Namibia, with whom did they make peace? They made peace with Sam Nujoma. Regarding the apartheid regime in South Africa and because of international pressure, De Klerk was forced to free Mandela from prison. As we can see today, they have begun a dialogue on a number of issues. Why use this double standard on Palestine only?

So, I do not want to tell them to use the military force that they deployed in the Gulf. But the least they could use is their political pressure. Obviously, this is caused by Arab weakness. We are paying a high price because of Arab weakness, because the Arab force should be a driving force for us, not against us. Despite all this, we are saying that we are prepared for peace. We are not prepared, however, to accept Israeli conditions on this peace. We would like to reiterate what President Bush stated: Land for peace; we are for Resolutions 242 and 338, including Israeli withdrawal from all the land occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. We also call for the realization of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, these rights that have been stipulated by international legitimacy. All right, let us see you implement them.

Would you forgive me if I attend a conference without laying claim to Jerusalem?

[Ma'm] Absolutely not.

['Arafat] Is there an Algerian child who would forgive me if I attend a conference without claiming Jerusalem?

All right. Let us speak about the right to self-determination. Is not the right to self-determination a sacred right to the peoples? Why is this right to self-determination a sacred right for all the peoples except for the Palestinian people? Why is it that states such as Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, which have gained their independence, have a smaller population than the Palestinian population? We are more than six and a half million, seven and three-quarters approximately; while the population of all these newly independent states totals about 5.7 million persons. This means that the population of our people is more than that of the three states that have gained their independence put together. What does it mean that the whole world rushed to recognize their right to self-determination, their independent state, and demanded that the Soviet Union grant them independence? Does this mean that the Palestinian people must remain under Israeli occupation, Israeli crimes, Israeli oppression, Israeli injustice, and continued Israeli aggression against Islamic and Christian sanctities?

Either the peace is just, comprehensive, and Palestinian, or there will be no peace.

[Ma'm] During the current PNC meeting there is much talk about peace. It is being said that there should be a formula that can unite all Palestinians before they embark on the peace conference. At the same time, the United States is rejecting Palestinian participation and says that there should be at least ideas hammered out during the conference. How does Mr. Abu-'Ammar visualize these ideas?

['Arafat] This is what the PNC will debate. I cannot impose my ideas on the conference. I can air my opinion only within the session. My opinion is only one opinion among others, as I am just a member of the PNC.

[Ma'm] This means that Abu-'Ammar does not have a personal formula?

['Arafat] It is not right for me to impose my formula. What is important in this is to protect the new PNC. This means that we managed to preserve the Palestinian people's legislative institution. The credit for this is due to my brothers and beloved ones here in Algeria, the president, government, and people.

[Ma'm] Mr. Abu-'Ammar, it is being said that there is an opportunity for peace for the Palestinians and that nobody should let this opportunity slip away.

['Arafat] I agree. As long as this opportunity does not mean capitulation. Yes, we are for peace. Not, however, according to Israeli conditions. I would like to state this publicly, as I did yesterday from this podium. I reject Israeli conditions. I swear to God that if they come to me and put the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left, I will never forgo nor renounciate Jerusalem.

[Ma'm] May God bless you and may God make you successful.

['Arafat] God willing, we will pray in Jerusalem.

[Ma'm] God willing.

['Arafat] And to enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

[Ma'm] Bless you, Brother Abu-'Ammar, and I wish you all success, God willing.

['Arafat] Bless you.

'Arafat on Prevailing 'Frankness'

JN2509120891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1108 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by radio correspondent Emile Haddad in Algiers on 25 September—recorded]

[Text] [Haddad] After two days of Palestine National Council meetings where the major issue is the peace process in the Middle East and the peace conference, in light of the discussions inside the council, what decisions do you expect the council to adopt in this regard?

['Arafat] The truth is that I cannot give a clear answer on this issue because it is still under discussion. Today, the concerned committees—the political committee, the economic committee, the intifadah committee, the occupied homeland affairs committee, the social committee, or other committees—began their meetings. Therefore, it is premature for me to give a clear answer on this issue. Otherwise, this would mean that I am trying to impose my personal opinion on the parliament of the Palestinian people. As you know, brother Emile, this contradicts with democracy. The truth, however, is that the atmosphere is good. Most important is the clear frankness that prevails, a frankness of which we are proud and which strengthens our democracy and our march of struggle for the liberation of our land, foremost being holy Jerusalem.

[Haddad] The U.S. secretary of state recently declared that he will meet with Palestinian figures. Will these figures convey to the U.S. Administration the final Palestinian decision on participation in the peace conference?

['Arafat] Of course this depends on what the PNC decision will be. He will meet with them in Washington as was agreed following the recent meeting in Jerusalem and then in Amman. Of course, as I have said, the committees have begun their work. We will then discuss the documents these committees will present. Following that, a new leadership for the Palestinian people will be elected.

[Haddad] About when do you expect the council to conclude its work?

['Arafat] God willing, on Friday, God willing, or on Saturday, God willing. The latest will be Saturday, God willing, God willing. At the same time, I would like to say that the Palestinian people and the representatives of the Palestinian people in Algiers received this flow of cables and letters from their brothers and beloved ones from every refugee camp, village, city, neighborhood, and from every organization, union, and group. We even received letters from our heroes inside the prisons. In the name of all my brothers, I deeply thank my beloved ones inside our occupied land for their letters, for their clear and frank positions conveyed by their letters, and for their support for the symbol of their homeland, the PLO.

[Haddad] Thank you, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Habash, Hawatimah Speak

JN2409192391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Ghassan Abu-Hamad report from Algiers]

[Text] They want us to liquidate our cause with our own hands. This is what Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said at the Palestine National Council's session today. Habash added amid the applause of the majority of the PNC members: We reject the U.S. plan of capitulation, we refuse to enter the conference of liquidation of the Palestine question, and we reject the formula of yes, but. We must clearly say no, and yes to the Palestinian state and yes to the PLO. Habash addressed 'Arafat: O my brother president, I know very well the pressure being exerted on you. Let your reply in our name clearly be no. He touched on James Baker's proposals, and said: Baker said no to the right to repatriation, no to the state, no to the right to self-determination, and no to the PLO. But we say: No to Baker. Habash considered the Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied territories the central link in the Palestinian struggle and that the duty is to secure steadfastness for 6 million Palestinians in the homeland and the diaspora. When he concluded his speech, President 'Arafat embraced him warmly.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also spoke. He said: The United States does not consider the Palestinians a people. If it considered them a people, it would admit the need for representing them at the conference, which is aimed at closing the Palestine question's file by renouncing the right to self-determination. Hawatimah accused the Arab states of refusing to respond to Palestinian calls for coordination in order to defend the PLO and the Palestinian right. He called for supporting the intifadah and promoting armed struggle. He said: We will not allow Arab borders to remain closed in our face and we will not allow Arab armies to be turned into border guards. We say no to the U.S. formula and the conference.

It was noticed that most of today's speeches stressed refusal to participate in the international peace conference with its known U.S. formula. Therefore, the second day of the PNC's work is a day of opposition and rejection.

The corridors of the Club des Pines, where the meetings are being held, witnessed several peripheral dialogues among the participating members on the echoes of Dr. Habash's speech. This will make it difficult to reach collective resolutions and will complicate president 'Arafat's mission. Commenting on the PNC conference, sources in the Fatah movement stressed that the speeches delivered yesterday and today confirm the spirit of openness and democracy as well as cohesion

between mind and heart. This in itself is a great victory for our people and for the unity of word and rank.

DFLP Message on Leadership Clash

JN2509103591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Sep 91 p 15

[Text] Algiers—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Several members of the Palestine National Council and the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have sent a memorandum to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and to PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih. The following is the text of the memorandum:

We, the representatives of the DFLP in the 20th PNC session—in accordance with the resolutions of the DFLP's Third General National Congress held in the first half of this month and in accordance with the resolutions of the legitimate Central Committee which stemmed from this congress; and out of the norms followed in defining and naming the representatives of the Palestinian factions to the PNC, affirm the following:

1. The Central Committee elected by the Third General National Congress under the chairmanship of Comrade Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh is the only legitimate committee authorized to represent the DFLP, speak for it, and choose its representatives to the PLO institutions and its Executive Committee.

2. Brother Nayif Hawatimah, former secretary general of the DFLP, neither represents the DFLP nor has the right to speak for it. All the stands and messages issued by him represent only the opinion of the illegitimate, divisionist group he leads.

3. The list of the names of the DFLP representatives, which we recognize, is the one presented to you in an official message signed by Secretary General Comrade Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in the name of the Central Committee.

Active members: Salih Ra'fat, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif; Mamduh Nawfal, 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, 'Ayishah 'Awdah, Ghazi al-Khalili, Jamil Hilal, Ahmad Jabr, Fayha' 'Abd-al-Hadi, Ma'n Abu-Jaysh, Ramadan Dawud, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Observers: Jamal Zaqqut, Muhannad 'Abd-al-Hamid, 'Abd-al- Hadi Shuruf, Salim Dardunah, Samir 'Abdallah, Shakir al-Hindi, and Ra'if Diyah.

PFLP, Hawatimah's Sources on Session

JN2409144091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Ghassan Abu-Hamad report from Algiers]

[Text] The Palestine National Council devoted its meetings this morning to general debates and to hearing the viewpoints of various Palestinian factions and independent figures participating in the 20th PNC session.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat's inaugural speech, delivered yesterday, continues to be the focus of attention by participants. A leading source of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said: We disagree with Yasir 'Arafat on betting on an international Middle East peace conference that is based on the proposed U.S. formula because this formula falls short of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. We believe that the Palestinian people and the PLO have no interest in participating in this conference under its current formula and conditions. We believe that the alternative is an independent PLO participation based on UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestine question and the area issues, and on the basis of equality among all participating parties.

Concluding his remarks, the leading PFLP source said: We will hold discussions with PNC members based on rejecting participation in the confernece in its current formula.

As for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Hawatimah wing, a leading DFLP source stated that the question is not over participation in the international peace conference, but over the conditions for this participation. We believe that the PLO is the party authorized to represent the Palestinian people in any decisions, and that it should form its delegation freely. The leading DFLP source said: We are for participation in the international peace conference, but on the basis of equality with the rest of the participants.

Regarding the echoes left by 'Arafat's speech in the capitals of key states, especially the United States, Khalid al-Hasan, head of the PNC Foreign Affairs Committee, said that intitial information indicates that the U.S. Administration has picked up from the speech what satisfies it—which is the PLO's readiness to cooperate and to be open to others—and ignored what dissatisfies it, which is linking cooperation with commitment to the constants of Palestinian struggle. Khalid al-Hasan added: This is the U.S. dual policy which is full of racial discrimination between Israel and the Palestinians.

Hamas Explains Nonparticipation

JN2409094591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 12

[Statement by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, issued on 23 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A historic statement by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine.

O ye that believe. Betray not the trust of Allah and the Messenger, nor misappropriate knowingly things entrusted to you. [Koranic verse]

Our Islamic Arab region has reached a serious turning point, unprecedented in the history of our glorious nation. In all situations of invasion, occupation, or aggression, no nation has ever surrendered a right or mandate to aggression. In these difficult circumstances, in the wake of the Gulf crisis and war—in which the United States has emerged as the sole leader of the world and wants to impose a new world order based on one of its strong bases of entrenching weakness, division, and subservience in our Arab and Islamic nation—America strives to convene a peace conference whose main objective is to liquidate the Palestine question and entrench the false existence of the Zionist entity by establishing the state of Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The circumstances which gave birth to the idea of the so-called peace conference, the parties that called for it through the carrot and stick policy, and the objectives set for the conference, make matters as clear as the sun. The conference aims at bestowing international legitimacy on the false existence of the Zionist entity on the land of Isra', not only through the recognition of the countries in the world, but also through the recognition of the Arab countries and the Palestinian people. The conference aims at making the Arab countries and the Palestinian people accept this and pledge to offer the necessary requirements for the stability of the Zionist entity in terms of normalization and playing a role in the regional security order.

The most important objective of this conference is to obtain the Palestinian people's—"the victim's"—recognition of the aggressor Zionist entity's right to confiscate this people's existence, holy land, and right to freedom and independence. If the American-Zionist alliance guaranteed some Arab countries' recognition of this, the conference aims to obtain Palestinian recognition in the way sought by the alliance. Thus, it is a conference for selling Palestine—all Palestine—with its holy lands, holy al-Aqsa, and holy Jerusalem.

What really hurts us most is the feverish contest by some of our people to respond to the American-Zionist trap and to beautify it before the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

O Palestinian people, O masses of our Islamic nation:

In these difficult circumstances, the PLO leadership and its symbols inside and outside occupied Palestine expedite their moves and tour Arab and Western capitals to guarantee their participation and reserve their seat in the conference. They hasten to call on the Palestine National Council—at this particular time—to agree on the policies of the PLO leadership or to give open authorization to the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council to deal with and participate in the conference in the same way agreement on the partition Resolution 181 and Resolutions 242 and 338 was peddled despite the clear recognition of the Zionist entity and the illegitimate usurpation of our blessed territory contained in the unjust resolutions. Nothing is left for them to concede after the series of concessions and retreats. They first called for the liberation of all Palestine, from the sea to the river, and rejected reconciliation, recognition, and negotiations; they then called for the occupied territory in 1967 and toppled all noes [no recognition of Israel, no reconciliation with Israel, no negotiations with Israel]; and now they have accepted the present American-Zionist conditions which do not guarantee Palestinian rights. What is now required on the American and Zionist level is to give Palestinian legitimacy to the unjust American-Zionist solution. We are required to sign our death warrant by ourselves so that nobody in our people and nation can oppose the American-Zionist will, claim Palestine, or fight for it.

O our people, O all our people, O our brothers the sons of Fatah, O our brothers in the factions—all factions—O all those who had the honor of resisting the Zionist occupiers and who offered, to you, O our people, all our people, we address you and call on you to adopt a courageous stand that fears no rebuke in God's cause, and that pays no attention to incitement and intimidation. We call on you to say your decisive word at this crucial stage for the sake of Palestine and Jerusalem, for the sake of our martyrs, and for the sake of our sons and all our generations. We are awaiting your word and immediate action to unite with your people and with your Arab and Islamic nation. May God protect our jihad and al-Aqsa Mosque with blessed steadfastness so that the conspiracy will not pass.

O our Palestinian people, O masses of our Arab and Islamic nation, your movement, the Islamic Jihad movement, Hamas, has tried to stop the train of settlement and the series of concessions, warned the PLO leadership of the dangers posed by this settlement, called on it to reject it totally, and urged it to unite with the Palestinian people in their jihad and resistance against occupation. To achieve this objective, Hamas expressed its readiness to join the PNC, were it formed through elections, were it represented in accordance with its true size in the arena, or were an agreement reached on a political jihad program that governs the course of the phased and strategic Palestinian action—all this in an attempt to stop deterioration in the official Palestinian position, to foil the settlement program adopted by the PNC during its 19th session of November 1988, and to adopt a political and jihad program that stresses our people's right in all Palestine and its throbbing heart, Jerusalem, for the sake of correcting the Palestinian course.

O our Arab and Islamic nation, the conference is aimed at achieving its objectives, and our Palestinian people and the peoples of the Arab and Islamic nations are expected to bless the capitulatory steps. The dangers of the conference not only threaten the Palestinian people, although they will be the first to suffer; they also threaten all the Arab and Islamic states and peoples. It is true that the Jews are occupying Palestine, but it is also true that their eyes are focused on the entire region. For the Jews, it is only a matter of time and stages. This necessitates a

comprehensive popular and official Arab and Islamic position to confront the imminent danger.

O sons of Arabism and Islam, O scholars of this nation, O inheritors of messengers and prophets, O brothers of Ibn-Taymiyah, al-'Izz-Bin-'Abd-al-Salam, 'Izza-Din-al-Qassam, and 'Abdallah 'Azzam [old Islamic scholars and leaders], O hope of the nation, your role has come, and people are waiting for your historic stand to guide them on the right course and to lead its jihad against the occupiers and invaders. Let all the Arab and Islamic forces that refuse to relinquish Palestine unite in serious and effective action, on all levels, to elevate this nation's status to enable it to be up to the level of challenges.

Stopping conspiracies against the place from where Prophet Muhammad made his midnight journey to the seven heavens is a must for all Muslims in the world. All the Arab and Islamic peoples and movements should play their aspired and expected role in the fateful, decisive battle against the enemies of humanity and God, the Jews. Our battle is the battle of the entire Islamic nation—with all its resources, capabilities, and civilization—against the Jews and their ambitions and schemes. Our Palestinian people are only the head of the jihad bayonet. They receive unlimited support from the Islamic nation, and are backed by a huge army reaching as far as the al-Aqsa Mosque.

O free men in the world, our Palestinian people reject the injustice that has been inflicted on them for decades. This is why they reject the kind of settlement that does not remove injustice, but entrenches it.

The current settlement conflicts with peace that restores right to its people. This settlement, if imposed, will not last because our people do not accept injustice and will continue to fight it one generation after another. We expect all the justice- and peace-loving forces in the world to support our just cause and contribute toward lifting injustice and aggression from our people to enable them to resume their cultural role in pleasing mankind.

O our mujahid Palestinian people, O masses of our Arab and Islamic nation, we in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, along with our mujahid and steadfast Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine, stress our adherence to our rights to our land and to al-Aqsa Mosque. We say clearly that the PNC—in its present formation, and its failure to represent all the active forces that lead our daily and bloody jihad against the occupiers and their repression—is not qualified and not authorized to make a decision representing the Palestinian people. Moreover, no one, be it a council, an organization, a state, or an individual, has the right to relinquish or abandon any part of Palestine under any circumstances.

The big conspiracy against us necessitates that we all adopt a serious position that will, God willing, restore rights and defeat falsehood. Based on this, your movement, the movement of all the Palestinian people, Hamas, calls for:

First: Rejecting relinquishment of any inch of Palestine and its heart, Jerusalem, expressing this by all available means, and confirming our right to Palestine as an indivisible whole. This is because Haifa, Yafo, Lod, and Ramla, just as Hebron, Nabulus, and Gaza, all belong to us, and will never belong to anyone else.

Second: Uniting with your movement, Hamas, and its jihad march that, God willing, will triumph, and supporting its principled political program that rejects capitulatory proposals, concessions, and recognition of the enemy. Let us all be one cohesive rank. Let us adopt a unified position, and let all conspiracies founder on the rock of our steadfastness.

Third: We call on our sincere brothers of PNC members to be on the side of their people. We call on them to boycott the PNC and to announce their rejection of all the resolutions that conflict with the full rights of our people and nation in Palestine and its heart, Jerusalem. We and our people expect this honorable stand from them.

Four: We call on our people to continue their blessed intifadah, activate it, and supply it with blood and fire. Let this be our practical and direct reply to the conspiracy of selling Palestine. Let the whole world know that the intifadah will continue, and that it will never be subject to compromise.

O our mujahid Palestinian people, O masses of our Arab and Islamic nation, the state of weakness and retreat our nation is experiencing at this stage will not last long, especially since the nation of jihad and the Koran will rise up this time too just as it did after all periods of weakness and defeat throughout its long history.

Perseverance, steadfastness, and adherence to rights—all rights—is what is required, regardless of the price or sacrifices. While refusing to participate in the PNC, the Hamas leadership and its bases inside and outside express the genuine position of our people and all world Muslims who reject humiliation and relinquishment of any inch of Palestine. War between us and the occupying enemy will continue to have its ups and downs, times will change, and victory is our lot, God willing. Allah will certainly aid those who aid His cause. [Koranic verse]

God is great and victory is the lot of the mujahid believers.

[Dated] 23 September 1991, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Palestine

'Abd-Rabbuh Regrets Hamas Absence

LD2409121191 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers 24 Sep (APS)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the Executive Committee and Head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's information department, said that he is "hoping the Hamas movement will participate in the current proceedings of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers," making clear that "the absence of this movement raises a big question mark about its stand in these historical moments."

In a press statement made yesterday on the sidelines of the 20th PNC session, he added: "We want the Hamas movement to be a part of the national coalition and not outside of it, although it has not previously existed within the framework of the PLO."

He went on to say: The PLO continues to comprise all sides of the coalition and still reflects the Palestinian national consensus.

Regarding the Hamas movement's demands, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "It is asking the impossible. It wants 40 percent of the Palestine National Council's membership and wants to abolish the council's charter a priori along with the charter of the PLO, which is not possible."

He emphasized: "We have asked Hamas officials to present their ideas, whatever they are, within the Palestine National Council and not outside it, because Palestinian democracy is the safety valve for everyone. There is total freedom for everyone to express his views and the outcome will be decided by the majority in this council.

Regarding the absence of the Islamic Jihad from the PNC's 20th session, 'Abd-Rabbuh expressed in his statement his hope that this movement will participate in the proceedings in the form of groups.

Concerning the absence of the Salvation Front [Jabhat al-Inqadh], he said the PLO did its best to convince the front to take part in the council's current session. "We invited the front during the preparatory meetings of the National Council and we also invited it to hold a meeting with the Executive Committee in order to discuss its views and demands directly, but it did not respond," he explained.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "We cannot do more than we can and we regret their absence, particularly because this is the eighth year that they have boycotted the PLO."

Abu-Sharif on Session

JN2409125691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian president, in Algiers on 24 September conducted by Suhayl Khuri—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, what are the current trends inside the Palestine National Council [PNC] regarding the proposed peace conference?

[Abu-Sharif] Discussions are going on in the PNC on the peace conference and the overall developments in our intifadah in the occupied territories and on the situation of our people outside the occupied territories. I believe—and I am talking about my impressions and not about resolutions—that the tendency of the overwhelming majority is to proceed with participation in the peace conference on the bases proposed by President Bush to Congress and concerning UN Resolutions calling for an end to the occupation and giving the Palestinian people all their legitimate political rights.

[Khuri] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, will the PNC say its word regarding the peace conference or will it authorize the PLO Executive Committee to do so?

[Abu-Sharif] In fact, this conference has special importance and sensitivity. The basic topic being discussed is crucial and historic because the decision will not be an ordinary, executive one. This decision will be adopted by the majority of the Palestinian people through their representatives attending the PNC session. Today, I expect the PNC members to debate thoroughly the political proposals and all developments witnessed in the region in the aftermath of the Gulf war. It is no secret that there are some viewpoints rejecting the whole peace process. Palestinian democracy is well known to the world. Today, we will witness a hot, but healthy debate on the best positions the Palestinian representatives can take. I also believe that the overwhelming majority of the PNC members will decide to participate in the peace conference and to coordinate closely with Jordan on the best ways to confront the challenges being created by Israel in the face of peace and negotiations.

[Khuri] We thank Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian president.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

'Abd-al-Rahman on Proceedings

LD2409160291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Interview with PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman by Mohamed Halloub at the Palestine National Council session near Algiers on 24 September—recorded]

[Text] [Halloub] Mr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the PNC [as heard] official spokesman, a crucial decision is expected of this session in reply to the proposal for a peace conference. Do you expect that this decision will be accepted while some Palestinian factions are adhering to the military solution?

['Abd-al-Rahman] First of all, let me thank Algeria and the Algerian people for playing host to this conference at this difficult moment in the history of the Palestinian

cause. Let me also, on behalf of the Council's members, thank the Algerian president and his government for the efforts they are making to ensure the success of this conference. This council is convened while the Palestinian issue is going through serious circumstances and a decisive turning point, I may say. Yes, this council will discuss all options open to the Palestinian people, with all frankness and clarity.

Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, made a comprehensive speech yesterday; and Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department—in other words, foreign minister—reported on political developments from 1988 to the present. In light of these new given facts, whether on the international level or the Arab level, after the Gulf war and the decisive changes on the international level—which no one could have foreseen—all these developments will be the focus of an in-depth analysis by members of the council to come up with a Palestinian strategy on the basis of the options open to us. Before us is the option to participate in the peace conference. Yes, for participation in the peace conference. But on what basis? We want to be clear on this matter.

[Halloub] Is it possible to say yes to the peace conference together with the president's "we reject the Israeli conditions" that he mentioned in his speech yesterday?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Yes to the peace conference, together with our absolute rejection of the Israeli conditions. Israel does not want peace; on the contrary, it is putting daily obstacles on the road to peace. It rejects the land for peace principle and refuses to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. We, as the Palestine Liberation Organization and as Palestinians, are in favor of land for peace and the implementation of UN resolutions. We are on the side of international legitimacy, while Israel is against it.

[Halloub] Do you not see coordination between the Israeli conditions and the U.S. conditions?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The United States, being the one calling for this conference together with the Soviet Union, is trying—like anyone chairing a conference—to bring closer together the conflicting views of the Arabs, including the Palestinians, and the views of the Israelis.

We, on our part, have offered everything possible so that the peace conference can be convened—because to the Palestinians, the peace conference means an end to the occupation, the right to self-determination, and the setting up of an independent state.

[Halloub] What is the role that will be played by the Soviet Union in this conference; in other words, what are the proposals that will come out of this session, and how will the Soviet Union be asked to play its role in the conference?

['Abd-al-Rahman] We have close contacts with the Soviet Union. A few days ago, the Soviet deputy foreign minister met with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis and delivered a message from President Gorbachev. We continue coordination and good relations with the Soviet Union with a view to convening the peace conference.

With regard to our National Council, as I said at the beginning, it is now discussing the conditions necessitated by Palestinian interests and objectives, so that a Palestinian delegation, formed by the PLO, can go to this conference. This is what the council is discussing, and in the end a new strategy will arise in the light of these facts and in the light of the information we have, adopting the invitation to convene the peace conference on the following basis:

First, an Israeli withdrawal and an immediate halt to the building of settlements, because these settlements are illegal. Second, the right to self-determination. Third, an independent state for the Palestinian people with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Halloub] What are the chances of these conditions being accepted at the peace conference?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I do not know. The Palestinian issue is the core of the conflict, and the existing occupation is an occupation of Palestinian land. What else could be the subject of peace if not the removal of Israeli occupation from the land of Palestine?

Algiers Atmosphere Termed 'Positive'

JN2409194991 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri expressed hope that the PNC meeting in Algiers will reach decisions to help the Palestinians regain their inalienable rights. Mr. al-Masri told the News at Ten that the atmosphere in Algiers seems to be very positive.

[Begin recording] [Al-Masri] I can say at this moment that we are watching with care, with interest, the deliberations in Algiers in the PNC meeting. And it seems that the atmosphere is very positive, and the leaders, and the members of the PNC are trying to push for the efforts to enable the Palestinians to reach their legitimate rights, and based on the implementation of international legitimacy, 242, 338, land for peace, and these principles. Whatever the PNC decides, it is their right. And I think they will come to the right and wise decision within few days. [end recording]

'Text' of U.S. Memorandum Published

LD2409155091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "Text of U.S. Memorandum of Understanding to Palestinians"]

[Text] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the text of the memorandum of understanding handed by U.S. Secretary of State

James Baker to the Palestinian delegation with whom he met in occupied Jerusalem during his latest tour. This is the memorandum on which Palestinian negotiator Hanan 'Ashrawi raised some questions relating to some points in the memorandum during her meeting with Baker in Amman on instructions from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

At the beginning of the meeting the Palestinian delegation conveyed to Baker a written message from 'Arafat welcoming a peace conference and asking for U.S. guarantees on the right of self-determination, Jerusalem, and a freeze on settlements. The message also said that the Palestine National Council [PNC], scheduled to meet in Algiers tomorrow, would discuss all aspects of the peace process and proposed U.S. guarantees and would adopt a final position in the light of all that.

According to responsible sources, the memorandum of understanding is tantamount to a message, an initial draft which could be amended.

The memorandum states:

1. Concerning the basis of a settlement:

Comprehensive peace must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 228 and on the land-for-peace principle. Such an outcome should ensure security and recognition for all states of the region including Israel, as well as the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights.

The process that we seek to promote will be an opportunity for give-and-take negotiations to end the Israeli occupation and create new relations whereby Palestinians and Israelis would respect each other's security, identity, and political rights. We understand that the Palestinians need to be in control of their decisions, including economic decisions, which affect their lives.

2. Concerning the mechanism of the conference:

A. The United States does not support linkage between negotiations held at various levels. The negotiations should proceed as fast as possible to enable the attainment of agreements.

B. Direct bilateral talks will begin within two days of the opening session, and the joint talks on regional issues within two weeks.

C. The United States will do its utmost to ensure progress at both levels of the process with the aim of achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

D. While the negotiations are effectively in progress, the United States will not support any parallel and rival discussions in the UN Security Council.

3. Concerning Palestinian representation:

A. We believe that a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation would be the most promising way of fulfilling the political rights of the Palestinians.

B. Only the Palestinians can choose the members of their delegation, which cannot be vetoed by any party.

The members of the delegation will be Palestinians from the territories who agree to two-tier negotiations in stages and who are willing to live in peace with Israel. No party will be forced to sit with anyone with whom it does not wish to sit.

C. The Palestinians are free to announce their part of the joint delegation and to deliver an opening statement at the conference. They can also raise any issue about the substance of the negotiations, during the negotiations.

[Text] D. Nothing the Palestinians do in selecting the members of this delegation at this stage will affect their demands on East Jerusalem or constitute a precedent or a prejudgement of the results of the negotiations.

E. The U.S. position is that Jerusalem should never again be a divided city. Its final status should be determined during the negotiations.

F. The U.S. position is that a Palestinian from a well-known Jerusalem family residing in Jordan may be included in the Jordanian part of the joint delegation.

G. The U.S. position is that the people of Jerusalem have a right to vote in the interim autonomy authority elections.

H. The United States believes that the people of East Jerusalem and the Palestinians outside the occupied territories who meet the three criteria should be able to participate in the final stage of the negotiations.

I. The United States supports the Palestinians' right to raise any issue, including the issue of East Jerusalem, at the negotiating table.

4. Concerning settlements:

The United States has opposed, and will continue to oppose, the settlement activities in the territories occupied in 1967 which remain an obstacle to peace.

5. Concerning the timetable and the time limit:

A. There needs to be an interim period to break the barriers of doubt and mistrust and to lay the foundations for steady negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories.

B. The negotiations on the interim arrangements will cover the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority from Israel to the Palestinians. The Palestinians urgently need to be in control of the political and economic decisions affecting their need to adapt to a new situation in which they would manage the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

C. The bilateral negotiations on the status of the occupied territories will proceed in stages, beginning with talks on transitional autonomy arrangements, and followed, within a period not exceeding the third year of the interim period, by negotiations on the final status. The interim period will be five years.

The United States acknowledges the importance of any transitional period and will do its utmost for the fulfillment of the objectives of reaching an agreement on interim autonomy arrangements within one year.

6. Concerning the features of the final status:

A. No one can dictate the result in advance.

B. In the opening statements at the conference and in the subsequent negotiations, the Palestinians will be free to raise any issue of importance to them. The Palestinians are free to debate any result.

C. The United States will accept any result accepted by the parties. In this connection, confederation is not excluded as a possible result of the final stage of negotiations.

Sha'th Terms Memorandum 'Insufficient'

LD2409153091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 91 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and chairman of the Palestine National Council Political Committee, by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo on 20 September]

[Text] ['Allam] Is the substance of the memorandum of understanding sufficient, just, and complete for the PLO with regard to ending the occupation, halting settlements, upholding the right to self-determination, and presenting Jerusalem in the peace conference both in terms of representation and as an issue?

[Sha'th] No. It is insufficient. And the PLO has informed Egypt of the text of the memorandum of understanding and its opinion of it. We are currently studying two formulas outside the framework of the memorandum presented by Baker a few days ago to resolve the problem of self-determination for the Palestinian people. The two formulas constitute major progress which reflects the willingness to move toward self-determination.

Although we are not satisfied with these two formulas, they are regarded as positive U.S. progress. We are continuing contacts with the U.S. Administration, directly through our delegation in the occupied territories and indirectly through the Arab parties, with a view to greater progress in the U.S. position. We still need clarifications.

['Allam] What results do you expect from the contacts with the Americans aimed at developing the U.S. memorandum on these two formulas?

[Sha'th] The point is that President George Bush and his national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, adopt positive stances verbally but do not include them in the memorandum of understanding—as with the stance that Arab Jerusalem is an occupied territory, for instance. So the consultations have not finished yet.

['Allam] Baker said in Cairo that he expects the "Palestinians inside" to participate. What about the Palestinians outside?

[Sha'th] Separation between the inside and outside is an allegation intended solely for Israeli domestic consumption. The Americans are playing "political blindman's buff" and they know full well that the entire Palestinian people are the PLO. But it is a matter of not giving Israel the opportunity to claim that it does not negotiate with the PLO. The important positive development is that the U.S. Administration has emphasized that it or Israel will not withdraw if the delegation present at the conference announces that it represents the PLO. So current contacts have finished with this business—which is undoubtedly a positive development. This, because Washington and Tel Aviv announced in the past that they would withdraw from the conference if the PLO said that the delegation represented it.

The Palestinian question put to the U.S. Administration is this: Why do you not announce openly that the PLO is the representative and that it is the PLO that chooses the delegation?

['Allam] But there is a positive U.S. position on Jerusalem both in terms of representation and as an issue. Do you accept the U.S. offer that it be broached at a later stage of the negotiations?

[Sha'th] The Jerusalem issue should be broached from the start, and the Palestinians will not attend the conference without East Jerusalem's representation in the Palestinian delegation and without its inclusion on the agenda. However, we do agree to discuss the Jerusalem issue at the end of the peace process. What is being discussed in the current contacts to resolve the Jerusalem problem is how to combine Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine; Jerusalem, the capital of Israel; and Jerusalem as a unified city. This view is put forward by the Americans themselves, but at the same time they have not broached Jerusalem's being two capitals, because their view is geographical, not political. As far as we are concerned, Jerusalem is the capital of our future state. It is not just a Palestinian city; it is principally an Islamic city, and a Christian one, too.

['Allam] When the final peace settlement is established, what will be the position with regard to the Palestinians outside? Has the question of naturalizing them and granting them the nationality of the states in which they live been raised in your contacts with the Arab states or in Baker's meetings with the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem?

[Sha'th] When a final solution is established the Palestinians will have three options: first, to return to the state of Palestine, whether they are returning from the West Bank or from outside it. Second, to return to the Israeli cities from which they were expelled. We must negotiate this issue in terms of the forms of repatriation or compensation. Third, the status of those who accept compensation and do not want to return to the state of Palestine. A formula must be drawn up for them so that either they obtain the nationality of the states in which they live or they obtain permanent residence, and this matter needs to be discussed.

['Allam] What are the results of your discussion with Jordan on the formation of the joint delegation? What are your expectations with regard to the anticipated five-way meeting?

[Sha'th] This question is currently being discussed internally and with Egypt and Jordan "preliminarily." As for the decision, it will be made by the PNC.

Two alternatives are currently being discussed: either a joint delegation with Jordan, or an independent delegation.

As for the five-way meeting, it will be held in New York in the presence of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings. It should continue as a permanent coordination instrument.

['Allam] When do you expect the peace conference to be convened?

[Sha'th] We expect it to be held in the third week of October.

['Allam] If the PNC agrees on participation in the peace conference with an "acceptable" delegation, what will its negotiation capability be?

[Sha'th] Our negotiation capability depends on five cards: first, the continuation of the intifadah. Second, we have an absolute right. Third, the international resolutions, which are in our favor. Fourth, Arab, international, and European support. Fifth, Israel's grave misconduct and its present government's fascism. We must "South Africanize" Israel before the world.

['Allam] What are the results of your negotiations with the [Palestine National] Salvation Front and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] over their conditions for attending the PNC session?

[Sha'th] The Palestinian position is unified, whether the Salvation Front participates in the council or not. The front represents a limited political margin, and the brothers in it have been politically overtaken by time in all respects. Their participation has no effect, negative or positive. So there is no dialogue with them on their conditions.

As for Hamas, throughout the Palestinian scene it represents up to nine percent and is demanding 40 percent of the PNC seats. Its participation concerns us because of its role in the occupied territories, and the question is still under negotiation. But its conditions are excessive: "to abolish the 19th session's resolutions and to proclaim the state of Palestine throughout the territory"—conditions which cannot be discussed at the present stage. Even if Hamas does not participate, it is still coordinating with the PLO.

['Allam] Will the PLO agree to the request of the Jewish "Neturai Karta" movement in the occupied territory to join the PNC? Will you discuss the possibility of one of its members' joining the Palestinian delegation?

[Sha'th] The movement's joining of the council and the participation of a Jew in the Palestinian delegation will be discussed at the coming PNC session. In principle, there is no objection. The PLO is represented in the Socialist International by a Palestinian Jew, namely, Ilan Halevi. Theoretically, he can be chosen for the Palestinian delegation.

['Allam] Are you currently thinking about announcing a provisional government-in-exile—a proposal made by PNC member Khalid al-Hasan?

[Sha'th] This is not on the agenda. [Sha'th ends]

['Allam] Last, he said in reply to a question: "We are working earnestly to clear the atmosphere. We have succeeded with Egypt, and relations with Syria will recover gradually, just as they have returned with Lebanon. It is difficult to accept the principle of an Arab state's expelling hundreds of thousands of Palestinians at this time, when they have nowhere to turn." He cited "mediations made in this regard by the Arab League secretary general."

OPEC Affairs

Ministerial Monitoring Committee Session Opens

LD2409205991 Vienna OPECNA in English 1745 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Geneva, 24 Sep (OPECNA)—A meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) began here this afternoon to discuss the world oil supply/demand scenario for the fourth quarter of the year. The Committee is to determine production quotas and a ceiling for the organization in the fourth quarter of the year. The opening session was attended by 12 heads of delegation of the organization's 13 member countries. Ecuador is reportedly not participating at the meeting due to pressing political commitments in Quito. The Ministerial Committee will discuss, among other issues, the report of member countries' experts, who ended their two-day meeting late Monday evening. The experts agreed that the call on OPEC oil for the fourth quarter would reach 23.9 million b/d, including a drawdown of

250,000 b/d from stocks. A source close to the deliberations told OPECNA that "this implied an OPEC production of 23.65 million b/d being warranted". The experts also put non-OPEC supplies at 29.8 million b/d in the quarter under review.

Conference President Discusses Agenda

LD2409210691 Vienna OPECNA in English 1654 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Geneva, 24 Sep 91 (OPECNA)—Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Dr. Celestino Armas said here today that OPEC should concentrate on attaining its minimum reference price of 21 dollars a barrel by the end of the year. In an interview with OPECNA on his arrival, he said: "Maybe with the seasonal conditions we are going to have in the fourth quarter and first three months of 1992, it will be possible to attain this goal."

The minister, who is also president of the OPEC conference, is here to attend today's fourth meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee, which has been mandated to decide on production quotas and the ceiling for the organization in the last three months of the year. Armas said he did not expect too many difficulties at the meeting. Conditions in the market, he said, had not changed substantially since their last talks in June, and in the fourth quarter they could expect high demand "and there should be room enough to accommodate any potential increase of exports from Kuwait and Iraq". He confirmed that the question of Kuwait and Iraqi crude oil production was on the meeting's agenda. The minister disclosed that the Committee might also discuss the environment, especially the preparatory meeting in November for the OPEC environment seminar due to be held in March 1992. He said that the purpose of this seminar was to try and reach an understanding and forge a common view on the environmental issue ahead of the global environment conference, scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June next year.

Concerning domestic operations, Armas disclosed that Venezuela was currently producing around 2.28 million b/d of crude, 40,000 b/d to 50,000 b/d of this amount going into stocks leaving supplies to the market standing at 2.23 million b/d. He said that the country's oil capacity expansion plans were progressing on schedule and that they expected to have another 100,000 b/d to 120,000 b/d installed by the end of this year.

Iraqi Minister on Oil Production

JN2509090091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1834 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Geneva, 24 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq has stressed that Iraq can produce approximately 1.5 million barrels of crude a day once the trade embargo on Iraq is lifted.

An INA correspondent in Geneva quoted the oil minister as telling journalists that if Iraq managed to purchase equipment to repair the damage done by the air raids in January, it could raise its production to 342 [as received] million barrels per day [bpd] in less than a year. To be more specific, I think it would be during the second half of 1992, the oil minister said.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq, representing Iraq at the fourth meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee scheduled to begin here today, noted that the Iraqi production of crude now totals around half a million barrels for domestic consumption. Iraq also exports 45,000 bpd to Jordan under a joint agreement.

The oil minister rejected the call of some OPEC members to change the production ceiling, saying: "I do not think we should change the production ceiling at this time. If an increase in production is sought, it should not be big because it will affect the OPEC prices."

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq stressed the need for lifting the economic blockade against Iraq. He said that once the blockade is lifted Iraq will have no problem selling its oil, and that many former buyers of Iraqi oil are willing to resume business with Iraq.

The oil minister did not rule out the possibility of Iraq exporting its oil through the oil pipelines across Turkish and Saudi territory in case the trade embargo is lifted.

Algeria

Parties React to Expected Lifting of Siege

LD2409085691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The state of siege will be lifted at midnight 29 September. This decision was reached by the president of the Republic after a meeting with the country's Higher Security Council. Now that the news is public, several of the political parties have reacted. Satisfaction is the common denominator among the political parties we have heard from, general satisfaction accompanied by express desires. Listen first of all to the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria], which expresses its satisfaction, but which has certain opinions about the conditions which should accompany the lifting of the state of siege:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified MDA representative] Overall they are quite satisfying, but we believe that they should move toward real freedom of expression and action by political groups. There should be no restrictions on the scope of this. We should promote the establishment of a climate of tolerance and security and prevent excesses and violence.

[Unidentified Hamas representative in Arabic, fading into French translation] In our view, the announcement of the lifting of the state of siege constitutes a completely positive attitude for the strengthening of the democratic process in a climate of stability and security. This matter has a very serious part to play in the preparation of the forthcoming legislative elections. We also hope that this lifting of the state of siege will take place amid normal conditions which will make it possible to achieve the Algerian people's aspirations and to improve their economic, social, and political situation. We hope that all the parties will help each other to get rid of all sources of trouble. In this specific area, the Hamas movement is sparing no effort.

[Unidentified Rally for Culture and Democracy representative] Our president, Said Saadi, is satisfied, but with a certain number of reservations:

[Saadi] Our situation is that an army [words indistinct] power has not done so, and we should be absolutely delighted about that. It has contented itself with restoring order. The second point is that the Algerian state was much more fragile than we had imagined. We saw this in June. The third point that merits attention concerns political parties which fell short of what the situation demanded of them. It is on this observation that we should build the future. It is up to each and every person to [words indistinct] to contribute whatever is required. [passage indistinct] The lifting of the state of siege is accompanied by a certain number of plans, and these must be closely examined. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Socialist Forces' Front representative] These are the minimum conditions for public debate to be relaunched, for the political situation to be improved, in short, to create a normal political life. Lifting the state of siege will make it possible to end the confusion surrounding the date of the legislative elections. Finally, it will also not fail to reassure all those who want to contribute to a real relaunching of the democratic process.

[Unidentified National Liberation Front representative] All the interested parties, including the political parties, now take on a major responsibility to keep their activities within the legal context of the law in force. The legislative elections, above all, should give rise to a responsible political debate, and not futile stirring. The political parties now shoulder responsibility for the maintenance of calm and civil peace. I hope that in this way we will tackle the other stages of preparation for the legislative elections. [end recording]

The Socialist Vanguard Party has said in a communique that it has taken note of this decision and that it also recalls its position, in other words, that it is opposed to the holding of legislative elections until the totalitarian and anti-constitutional forces have been banned.

The Party of Algerian Renewal expresses its satisfaction, but recalls that although the public unrest has been ended by force, the causes which brought it about have not been ended. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Israeli Stand on Peace Conference Criticized

NC2409141091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Under the headline: "Political Bombs," AL-AHRAM writes that it is no longer a secret that Israel chooses when to drop its political bombs to obstruct the peace process. Whenever words and deeds come together and it looks like a new phase in the peace process will begin, Israeli officials start making new demands or statements the contents of which constitute not only a retreat from the original point but also serve as a warning to others that any effort in the direction of peace is useless.

AL-AHRAM says that the latest example of this ploy is the tacit agreement to leave the settlement and East Jerusalem issues to be discussed during the first phase or following phases of the peace conference. This meets the Israeli demand that the settlement issue be a topic of dialogue at the conference. Israel has not yet recognized the right to discuss the East Jerusalem issue on the grounds that the issue is no longer debatable because it has annexed Jerusalem and a united Jerusalem is regarded as Israel's eternal capital.

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that Israeli obstruction is also at work here. If the other parties, particularly the Arab parties, agreed to defer the settlement issue for discussion at the conference without demanding in advance that Israel promise to stop building settlements, the hope was that, in return, Israel would suspend building the

settlements temporarily so that the conference could be held in a healthy atmosphere.

Musa Views Israeli Settlements, Resolution 242

NC2409161491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1214 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that Security Council Resolution 242 requires Israel to withdraw from all territories it occupied on 5 June 1967 on all fronts, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the Golan. Musa said an international agreement exists on the inadmissibility of territorial acquisition by war.

In an interview with the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT published today, Musa affirmed that the Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories is "an obstacle to the peace process and could jeopardize the entire Middle East peace conference." He described U.S. President George Bush's stand on U.S. loan guarantees to Israel as (?important) and said that it will give impulse to the peace process.

Musa said the difference among the Palestinian leaders over U.S. peace assurances is a matter that concerns them and it is up to them to sort it out. He said he hopes a final agreement on all details will be worked out in the coming weeks.

The Egyptian foreign minister urged Iraq to implement all Security Council resolutions pertinent to the Gulf crisis in order to avert the problems that might result from Iraq's failure to comply with them and avoid stalling the peace process. Musa called on Iraq to release all Kuwaiti prisoners.

Musa expressed his optimism on the nomination of Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, to the post of UN secretary general. He noted that the African states had prepared a list of African candidates for the job and Dr. Ghali's name tops this list.

President Mubarak To Visit Moscow 26 Sep

NC2509062391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 25 Sep 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM notes that President Husni Mubarak will visit the Soviet Union tomorrow in response to an invitation from the Soviet leadership which was delivered to Mubarak by Yevgeniy Primakov, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's emissary, on 11 September. The visit will last until 27 September, and the talks will focus on Mideast issues and regional peace arrangements.

AL-AHRAM cites the Egyptian ambassador to the Soviet Union as saying that the main goal of Mubarak's visit is to express the Egyptian leadership, government, and people's support for President Gorbachev and the policy of perestroyka and to voice solidarity with the Soviet Union.

Reporting on the current discussion over the convocation of a peace conference, AL-AHRAM notes that consultations were held between Egypt, the USSR, and the United States during the past 24 hours to examine last-minute arrangements before addressing the invitations to the Middle East peace conference.

AL-AHRAM says that the invitations are expected to be addressed to the countries participating in the conference in October.

Mubarak's SABAH AL-KHAYR Interview

NC2409074391 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic 19 Sep 91 pp 3-13

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by SABAH AL-KHAYR chief editor Mufid Fawzi at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria on 11 September]

[Text] [Fawzi] There is a story behind my dialogue with the president: The telephone rang in my house in al-'Ajami, and the caller was President Mubarak himself. He had some comments he wanted to make on the contents of SABAH AL-KHAYR's lead editorial, in which I called for avoiding too much sentimentality in our relations with the Libyan Jamahiriyah. I listened to every word the president said and allowed myself to differ with him on one point. He was gracious when he said: Do not take my words as a reproach; I am simply giving you the background. You are a writer and have your own opinion.

In previous eras—may God not bring them back—when angered by what a writer had written, the ruler used to break the writer's pen, have him arrested, order his suspension, or punish him by firing him. I personally had such an experience once; I am not speaking from ignorance.

I will now resume my discussion about the president.

I told him: I would like to talk to you about more than just policy.

He said: I do not like personal matters.

I said: I want to know Egypt's ruler better.

After a brief silence, the president permitted me to come to Ra's al-Tin Palace at 1130 the following day.

Those who were annoyed by what I had written were astonished at the ease with which President Mubarak invited me to hold a dialogue with him. I told them verbatim: The time of the superficial press has gone, as has the era in which the ruler expected the writer to change his pen for tambourines and drums has gone.

As I was in Alexandria on a short summer vacation, I was not prepared and did not have a small recorder for taping the interview. To save the situation, however, I took a radio-recorder with me, which the president jokingly described as the mill, and—in the middle of our dialogue—as a washing machine. At the end of our

conversation, he said: Do not forget to take this crate with you (meaning the large recording machine).

The president received me on a balcony at Qasr al-Tin Palace which overlooks the sea. We sat on bamboo seats that were covered by the palace's cozy cushions. Mubarak prefers a less luxurious life style, however. This was my second press dialogue with the president, and I noticed that we were meeting in the open air—not inside—probably because our ruler is a sportsman who cannot stand closed areas. As the interviewer, I admit that the open area prompted me to conduct an open dialogue.

The president began by asking me: What do you have?

From papers I had prepared, I read out two questions about Egypt, which I admit is both the point of his weakness and the source of his strength.

The president gave me his time and attention.

[Fawzi] I was under the impression that in August you were going to take some rest. Then you surprised us with your unannounced visits to some production facilities in Egypt. I can almost say that you do not take a rest and that you allow no hobby to distract you from Egypt's worries. I have the feeling that you visit these factories and installations as if they were your own property. Do you not ever give your mind some rest?

[Mubarak] If you are asking about worries, they are many. When I assumed my post, the economic situation was the focus of my attention. Economics, as you know, are the mainstay of politics. Attracting investors to Egypt was necessary to get the economy going. Investors, however, used to come and shortly afterwards used to go away saying there is no hope. This was my first worry. I sat down to think of the investments issue—Egypt's hope. It is the way to provide jobs for the unemployed, especially as Egypt's population increases by 1 million people a year. In short, I was faced by complex worries which had accumulated over many years. If solutions had been sincerely sought for these problems following the Second World War, fifty years ago, we would have not reached the current situation. I have no time for rest like other people. The ideal rest for me is the citizen's welfare. The entire world is engaged in an economic struggle. What is happening in the USSR resulted from economics. My first step was to hold an economic conference to get a clear picture of the situation. We drew up a first and second economic plan and are currently occupied with formulating a third. I am breathing a little easier now and this is my rest. How can I, however, have total rest? I might find some few occasions to engage in sports to keep my mind alert. I usually do this at noon in order to prepare myself for the afternoon meetings.

[Fawzi] This reminds me: Can you define Egypt's current economic identity? Are we a capitalist or a socialist country, or do we represent a special experiment dictated by special circumstances?

[Mubarak] We take what suits us from both the capitalist and eastern systems. This mixed system becomes a reasonable equation if its achieves social justice. As Egypt's ruler, what do I seek? I seek to provide the minimum requirements for all classes of citizens. I am neither a capitalist nor a socialist. I do not pursue slogans and molds. What have the socialist countries now done? They are pursuing a different equation. I do not believe in being a leftist or a rightist. I choose the system that suits my country.

[Fawzi] One question, Mr. President. Does the Egyptian citizen know how much effort the ruler makes to provide the minimum economic requirements?

[Mubarak] As long as the commodity is available to him, he will not feel this effort. I tell you frankly, the plans are proceeding as planned and the ordinary citizen does not sense them because people view things through the perspective of money. If the people felt the deprivation that those in other countries suffer, they would realize how much strenuous effort is being made.

[Fawzi] The people felt relieved when you announced that you do not read reports prepared by government organs about them. Such reports formerly caused a lot of harm. The people know that you do not listen to those who whisper things to you. They know that you do not even permit such whispering. The question is: Where do you get the information you need?

[Mubarak] First, I do not receive reports about people. If a certain person has done something wrong, the appropriate measures are taken against him but this has no connection with me. Second, I do not judge anyone as a result of any report or slander against him. If I hear something about someone, I immediately confront him. Third, I get my information through the incidental contacts that I make and without letting anyone feel that he is a source. I have a certain method. I talk to more than one person about an issue, listen to several viewpoints, the data builds up, and a picture forms. I cannot claim that this formula works one hundred percent. However, I do not like people informing on each other. I do not adopt one single viewpoint or accept any opinion without examining it. I also do not forget.

[Fawzi] I feel that your good memory is one of your strongest points as a human being.

[Mubarak] Yes. I do not forget.

[Fawzi] I asked the president: How do you choose your friends? Are they your relatives, your comrades-in-arms, or your childhood friends? No one can say that any specific person is close to you. You always keep some distance between yourself and other people.

[Mubarak] Every childhood friend has gone his own way, but I still have some friends from the Air Force. I have built some other friendships through my meetings.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, what makes a friend close to you?

[Mubarak] He must be straightforward and honest.

[Fawzi] Are there limits that your friends cannot cross?

[Mubarak] These friendships have nothing to do with work, and my work is the line that they cannot cross. If the friend tries to exploit our friendship, I tell him to stop—and I can tell if my friend is trying to use the friendship for objectives related to work. Friendship is friendship, and I will not allow friends to exploit our relationship to achieve their personal goals. If I meet a friend like that, I ask him why he is interested in the particular subject. If any of my friends tries to discuss a private topic, I ask him to stop immediately. I do not like groups and opportunists. I share talk and laughter with my friend, but, if he tries to exploit this for his own personal interest, I stop him immediately. I can fully distinguish between friendship and work.

[Fawzi] Is this part of your personality or is it the wisdom that comes with age?

[Mubarak] It is my nature, then add the wisdom. I will be very frank with you. Sometimes a friend seeks power—such as when a friend calls me from abroad while there is somebody sitting next to him simply to show that he can call the president. For your information, I do not answer the telephone. When there is a call for me, the caller's name, telephone number, and reason for calling are taken, and I may or may not return the call. [Mubarak laughing] Do you want to scare people away from me?

[Fawzi] Please correct me if I am wrong. You did not give your sons enough time, and now you are trying to make up for this involuntary negligence. Husni Mubarak the pilot was always on the move, then came the burdens of the vice presidency, and then the presidency. Your sons paid the price for each assignment.

[Mubarak] Your information is correct. When I was in the Air Force before the 1967 war, I would stay away from home for two or three nights in a row. When I was stationed at remote air bases, I would be away from home for a whole week. I wanted to set an example for my officers, so that nobody could say: We are spending the night away from home, but the commander is not. I made a point of being with them and living their life. After 1967, I did not have any time for the boys, as I would come home at dawn, sleep for an hour or two, and then go back to work. It was a tremendously exhausting effort, but when I became Air Force commander, I doubled my effort—and the hours I spent away from home doubled as well. When I first became vice president, I had some free time to see my sons in the afternoon, but then the work started to fully occupy me, taking me away from home. The time I spent with them shrank considerably. When I became president, I considered myself lucky if I could see them at lunch time. When they are eating lunch, I usually play some sports. When they come home at night, they find me busy on the phone and making contacts, and then I go to sleep. True; the concerns of my job have taken me away from them.

[Fawzi] When 'Ala' Mubarak [Mubarak's son] fell in love with a girl and wanted to marry her, did he tell you or his honorable mother Mrs. Susan Mubarak about it?

[Mubarak] It is our sons' custom to tell us everything. We share a friendship that permits us to be completely honest on any subject. Whoever has something to say says it—nobody hides anything. If there is something that I do not like, I discuss it frankly, but I do not force my opinion or become obstinate. Dialogue gives the boys a sense of dignity. They realize that the advice we give them is backed by our experience and that we want only the best for them.

[Fawzi] Mr. President: Don't you wish you had a daughter? For me, parenthood means having a girl. Did you ever have such a wish?

[Mubarak] Look, whether I wished this or not, it is a matter of destiny.

[Fawzi] But as a human being, did you not wish you had a daughter to carry your name?

[Mubarak] I never thought about it. I didn't have time for that.

[Fawzi] During our talks, President Mubarak looked away and I saw that he was gazing from the Ra's al-Tin Palace terrace at a huge ship sailing in the distance. I shyly asked him: What caught your attention about that ship?

[Mubarak] Nothing. I am trying to figure what kind of cargo she is carrying and how much she pays in fees for using the Suez Canal. Sometimes I count the number of ships that pass while I am sitting here.

[Fawzi] How can I interpret this remark?

[Mubarak] All that matters to me is social justice and providing a decent life for the majority of the people. The transit of ships means income for Egypt's treasury.

[Fawzi] What links do you have with the world's politicians, kings, and presidents? Have you established friendships with them?

[Mubarak] To put it very clearly, all my relations have Egypt's best interests in mind. I do not start a relationship with anyone simply so I can go and have a free vacation in his country. Such trivial gains are of no value to me, as my interest corresponds with my country's interest. I use every relationship with a king or head of state for Egypt's good. Some people say: The president travels and then travels again; we want to see the results. We have seen the results—the whole world has supported us on many issues. When I speak with heads of state, I discuss things privately with them and frankly tell them my views. I do not like talking with a lot people around; I prefer bilateral talks. I might say to a head of state: I do not understand what you have done. I prefer frankness. It is my method. I present the facts as they are, because that makes me comfortable. I do not like

false optimism. I can answer your question by saying that I have good relations with the world's politicians for the good of Egypt.

[Fawzi] I know I am entering a personal area that you do not like to discuss. I do not want to ask you about your father and mother specifically, but what kind of qualities did you inherit from them?

[Mubarak] Qualities? All that I can say is that my father was honest, and my mother was good-hearted and loving. You may not know that I entered the military service when I was only 17. My parents did not agree with my decision to join the Air Force, but they accepted it.

[Fawzi] I would like to discuss a thorny issue. When you were the late President's al-Sadat's vice president, did you disagree with him on any issues, or did you always agree with him just because he was the president?

[Mubarak] I used to tell him of my views in all frankness and honesty, but the decision was his. I used to tell him how the people felt—I never hid this from him. I never embellished or added anything, but I told him what I knew the situation to be. I was honest in telling him my opinion, and we differed on many topics and had many arguments. He listened to what I had to say, but then he made his own decision. He was the head of state. As vice president, I was not responsible.

[Fawzi] On the seventh media day anniversary, I asked you a question about the post of vice president—and some people later asked me why I had asked such a question. I considered that question necessary in the democratic climate that you have created for Egypt. I wish to repeat the question.

[Mubarak] Those who asked you about your question had not paid sufficient attention to the meaning of the word freedom. If I find the person who can bear part of my concerns, I will not hesitate to appoint him.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, frankly and without beating around the bush, do you believe that the vice president's post creates "dual loyalty"?

[Mubarak] What do you mean by dual loyalty?

[Fawzi] I mean having both loyalty to the president and loyalty to the vice president.

[Mubarak] No, I do not think so. Those who like to incite discord an divisions say such things, and this kind of thing happened when President al-Sadat was in power. At that time, those who like to create divisions said: The vice president's influence is increasing. The vice president is doing this and that. When I was vice president, I worked sincerely and honestly with President al-Sadat. I told him on several occasions: When you decide that I have become a burden to you, I will be ready to leave. My words angered President al-Sadat, as did their repetition. What people do not know is that the president of the republic can—in one second—dismiss his vice president. I tell you frankly that I am not selfish. I once said that a shroud has no pockets. Do you want me to pursue fleeting goals?

[Fawzi] Mr. President, your talk has a touch of asceticism and mysticism.

[Mubarak] Yes, they are fleeting goals. No one eats more than he needs, and man has only one stomach. Fictitious and fleeting gains have no value. I stand at the helm of power and have a specific duty: to ensure that Egypt does not fall into any kind of predicament. I have another duty: to ensure social justice for the majority of the people. This is a duty, not something to show off.

[Fawzi] Why don't you announce the reasons for dismissing a public servant from his post—whether a minister or a governor—so that the rumors will be silenced?

[Mubarak] We are a country of a special nature, and this secrecy preserves the family. I preserve the special social configuration of Egypt—its family and kinsfolk.

If I were to publicize the reasons behind dismissing a public servant from his post, as you suggest, I would make his family collapse. By this secrecy, I protect the family from falling apart. A scandal could create acute psychological problems for the sons and daughters. Before I came to power, it was said that some ministers were thieves, and you should have seen how their children were humiliated in the schools and universities. Some children got sick and still have not been cured. Their fathers were acquitted, but only after their children were destroyed and several engagements were broken. Our society is still based on the family, and every society has its own circumstances.

[Fawzi] Are you satisfied with the current status of the National Democratic Party [NDP]?

[Mubarak] Frankly no. It will take us years to reach an ideal situation. You must not forget that we have been used to a one-party system for generations. I have an idea about how to develop the NDP: grassroots elections, which give some people the opportunity to enter the party, while allowing others to leave. I hope the other parties will do what I am now doing to develop the NDP.

[Fawzi] You do not like to shock people, nor do you want to tell the people anything less than the full truth. You are not hypocritical toward the people. Is this the art of government?

[Mubarak] I will not be hypocritical toward the people, nor will I keep them from confronting reality. Every citizen in this country must know the facts so that he can be as familiar with the situation as I am. When I frankly discuss the reality of the situation, you will excuse me and share my burden.

Regarding the year of prosperity, President al-Sadat once said that his view of prosperity is different from that of the people, and the people laughed. Why? Because they had not found the prosperity that they hoped for and dreamed about. Yes, I insist giving us our full dose of reality. Some

people ask me: Why do you paint such a gloomy picture? I reply: If the picture is black, should I artificially brighten it? We must work together to brighten it. When you know the real color, you must share my views.

[Fawzi] Are the "businessmen" participating in the reconstruction of Egypt that is being conducted following years of accumulated problems?

[Mubarak, after a pause] I help the businessmen by making it easier for them to make money. I am not against their financial success, but they do have a duty to help the public. When businessmen help the public, the public protects them and their factories. There must be social justice—the businessmen must build schools and hospitals. A country like ours needs a certain amount of self help. I heard about a hospital which needed $40,000 worth of spare parts for its dialysis equipment, and the patients would have been dead by the time the government made the necessary allocations. The government's paperwork takes time. In the case of that hospital, some businessmen resolved the problem in no time at all through a private initiative. By the way, complicated bureaucratic work exists in every country, not just in Egypt.

[Fawzi] Have you ever spent sleepless nights that you later remembered with a smile?

[Mubarak, after a moment of contemplation] That happened in October 1973 during the war with Israel. I remember that I used to go out at 0200 to get some exercise while everyone was asleep. People around me were astonished. Is that a time for exercise? Well, I could not stay up all night without working out a little.

[Fawzi] What do you retain from your piloting days?

[Mubarak] I still make an "assessment of the situation" and work out the "full calculations" for every situation, because I believe that the country cannot afford to make any mistakes. This habit of calculation is something that I acquired as a pilot. I must collect certain information to correctly assess a situation, so I get specialists together and talk to them. I tell them my opinion and get their feedback, and after that I make the decision. To make a sound decision in the armed forces, we need to have data about reinforcements, supply, operations, reconnaissance, formations, and training.

[Fawzi] I think that the country's administration has seen the light due to the military. Would you, Mr. President, agree with me that Egypt's real problem lies with its administration?

[Mubarak] No. This is a fundamental problem but is not the most important one. "Laxity" is another problem. The administrator might find the right solutions, but the person tasked with implementing them might be "lax" in his performance. Successful administration requires a solid support base and clear vision.

[Fawzi] How do you feel, as a person, about Saddam's treachery, 'Arafat's inconsistency, King Husayn's deviousness, and 'Umar al-Bashir's behavior? Or is there no place for sentiment in politics?

[Mubarak] How do I feel? I feel sad, particularly as I had a certain feeling inside me and later discovered that I was right.

[Fawzi] Did you not tell anyone abut this feeling?

[Mubarak] No, I did not.

[Fawzi] Why?

[Mubarak] A feeling can be wrong as well as right.

[Fawzi] When did you have this feeling?

[Mubarak] At the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

[Fawzi] Why did you have this feeling?

[Mubarak] When the ACC was born, I asked myself whether it was an anti-Saudi alliance. I do not like such alliances. They said it was not. I told them that the ACC must be an economic council, but they replied that an economic grouping must in the end become military. To myself I said: No. They insinuated this to me once. I do not forget—I store insinuations in my brain's computer. When they began their discussions, they focused on two areas, defense and security, meaning the military and intelligence fields. I put two and two together and became angry and suspicious. There were many diverse details that confirmed my suspicions and made me both sad and weary.

[Fawzi] In all honesty, do you still feel disgusted about this matter?

[Mubarak] We told ourselves: Perhaps they have begun to understand. King Husayn, however, came up with something he called the White Paper, which contained statements that had been turned around 180 degrees. I have secrets in my heart that I still have not revealed, as I am wary of going too far. King Husayn sat on the chair you are sitting on now, and we discussed things. No one can deny the exact words I said about this matter.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, do you believe that the White Paper has been given more media coverage than it deserves, especially as only 300 copies exist, which are banned from circulation?

[Mubarak] When a book is published as a document, I must respond to it. There was an Egyptian journalist who, speaking on a certain radio station, said that Egypt could have resolved the crisis. How? Egypt's positions were stated publicly, and he can go back to the files.

[Fawzi] How much forgiveness can you show toward someone who makes mistakes in the line of duty?

[Mubarak] A person who does not do any work is worse than someone who makes mistakes. Inadvertent mistakes are easily forgiven, but deliberate and repeated mistakes are punishable.

[Fawzi] How could you be puzzled about choosing public figures when Egypt is rich with intellectual men? Are there other traits that you find desirable for public figures?

[Mubarak] I agree with you, but there are certain posts that require specific qualities and features, and, frankly, this bothers me.

[Fawzi] Do you punish employees of a factory or firm in the same way that you award medals?

[Mubarak] This has happened. I visited a company six years ago, and I asked the president what the factory produced, and he said it produced this and that. I later found out, however, that the factory really produced something else. I told him immediately that the factory no longer needed him, and he left.

[Fawzi] Do you read newspapers and magazines or their summaries?

[Mubarak] I do not like summaries. I read the entire paper or magazine, not a summary. I follow up writers' articles, and sometimes I read something improper, and tell the writer that it is not right. It is necessary to follow up on these matters, and I do not hesitate to put things right or add some background.

[Fawzi] Do you discuss political or public affairs in your home?

[Mubarak] At home we only discuss personal matters. One might say something, but I do not permit discussions of politics or opinion.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, you have fought a difficult battle on the debt issue. Some people, however, do not feel that the debts have been canceled or rescheduled. Why don't the Egyptian people understand the seriousness of this battle, which directly affects the ordinary citizen's livelihood?

[Mubarak] The ordinary citizen does not understand this because wheat and cooking oil are available. The people are not suffering any hardship concerning the supply of commodities. No one knows how we struggle to keep these commodities on the market.

[Fawzi] Do you feel how slow government activity is?

[Mubarak] Slow? This is not true. The country's problems are very complex, and this government has done the impossible—and I say this frankly, not just to please some individual. This government has made an effort almost beyond its ability. It unraveled some very interwoven problems. The citizen takes matters lightly. He thinks that, because the debts have been canceled, we can expect some relief. How? Can you believe that on the day the debts were canceled, I was calling members of the U.S. Congress in their homes at seven o'clock in the morning so I could catch them before they left for work? I could do this because I had established relationships with them. You know that these kinds of relationships are essential to politics. I kept up these contacts until the debts were canceled, and I admit that they helped me. This is what we do behind the scenes so that the Egyptian citizen does not feel any deprivation.

[Fawzi] Do you think that there are any harmful effects when a ruler suppresses opinions? Do you think that it is my right as a writer to criticize officials and government proposals without having to be cautious or afraid?

[Mubarak] Of course it is your right. Suppressing opinions is very harmful. Suppressed views might grow in secret, and I would know nothing about them. This is why I want to know the other person's view, and I want it to be expressed freely and without fear. Freedom is a lung to breathe with, despite the exaggerations some writers have made. Some partisan newspapers speak of corruption. I am only interested in conclusive facts. The people also know who is a serious writer and who is not. I object when a writer denigrates his country to serve other parties. At any rate, I am against silencing a writer or arresting a journalist. I will not abandon this principle regardless of the excesses of some writers.

[Fawzi] Concerning public work, can you tell who is a hypocrite, who is insincere, and who is more talk than action?

[Mubarak] Do not worry—I easily see through them. I can tell when someone comes over and talks nonsense just to make me feel good. I always ask them: So, what was that all about? Sometimes I laugh, but I see through their games. This type of person betrays himself by the way he talks and acts.

[Fawzi] Excuse me. There has been a debate in the newspapers concerning a recent documentary by Yusuf Shahin which was screened at an international film festival abroad. The documentary, called "Cairo, Bright, and Populous," showed Cairo in a very unflattering light. It drew criticism from some and was hailed by others as an example of the artist's freedom of expression. I ask you, Mr. President, do you support artistic freedom of expression, and to what extent?

[Mubarak] In the first place, Egyptian artists are citizens, and I do not doubt their patriotism. The artist, however, should keep in mind his country's interest and reputation. This is the limit of freedom of expression: matters concerning Egypt's interests and reputation. If a film is screened in Egypt and is criticized, there is no problem, as this does not harm the national interests. If a film goes abroad without anyone's knowledge and tarnishes the country's image, however, I believe that it will be denounced by public opinion. Freedom of expression has limits, and these are not infinite, as some may think. Everything has limits, including the life of a human being. Freedom has limits—it should not harm others. If a U.S. artist makes a film without notifying the appropriate authorities, the press will "cut him to pieces." I do not approve of art that tarnishes the country's image, but, at the same time, I have not banned the freedom of expression. The artist has the right to think whatever he likes, but he should bear in mind Egypt's higher interests and not ruin its reputation.

[Fawzi] Egyptian media have expanded, found new channels, and assumed a prominent role in the region. Do these media reflect the troubles of the people? Radio and television make up the bridge between the people and the government.

[Mubarak] Some people get upset when the television service broadcasts programs that include criticism. I do not. I am opposed to banning criticism, because those who criticize are Egyptians and patriots who are knowledgeable about the country's interests. I watch television when I have time, and, when I see a program containing criticism, I phone the information minister and ask him what truth there is in this criticism. It is important to know what is wrong with our society. Freedom of expression is an established right. I do not prevent anyone from expressing his opinion, but we should keep in mind—particularly in matters concerning international relations—Egypt's interests. The news I get from radio, television, and newspapers help me to see the full picture. As I have said, I follow them directly and not through reports and briefings. Every now and then an article appears in a party-owned paper that makes somebody say: "Let us confiscate it, Mr. President." I say: No. Consider it a leaflet, and do not confiscate it.

[Fawzi] U.S. President Bush was asked in a television interview about the most beautiful moment in the day and he said: sunset. President Mitterrand was asked about his happiest moment and he said: when I succeed in selecting someone for a post. Germany's Kohl was asked what makes him angry. He said: the stupidity of those I thought were smart. Would you allow me to ask you the same three questions?

[Mubarak] First, I am like Mitterrand. I feel happy when I put the right man in the right position. It is satisfying to know that someone is going to share responsibility with me and is going to do it well. The moment I find someone who is right for the job is a very happy moment indeed.

Second, the most beautiful moment in the day is when I am playing a sport.

Third, I get angry when I trust someone and he lets me down. Trusting people is a serious matter. What makes me even angrier is when the ordinary people's interests are compromised.

[Fawzi] During my conversation with President Mubarak, a small piece of paper with a few fine slanted lines written on it with red pencil attracted my attention—or, rather, my curiosity. Above the president's sunglasses case, only the date was visible: Wednesday, 11 September. I asked him to reveal the paper's content, if he would.

[Mubarak] Names and notes.

[Fawzi] My journalistic curiosity will be satisfied if the names are given.

[Mubarak—laughing] You also want to know about the notes.

[Fawzi] Only the names will do.

[Mubarak] Minister Faruq Husni, Minister Sat'wat al-Sharif, Libyan guest Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Mufid Fawzi, Dr. Fu'ad Sultan, and the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. Are you satisfied?

[Fawzi] I did not want to describe Mubarak as the one and only, the inspired one, the most upstanding peasant, or the best worker. I will say very briefly, however: Mubarak of Egypt. Yes, congratulations to Egypt for having this man for reasons that are well know to the Egyptians. There are no great imperialistic dreams in Mubarak's head, nor are dreams of luxury brooding in his breast. He is preoccupied with Egypt and is concerned solely about Egypt. He is a competent pilot who flies the airplane of the homeland and lands it at the airport of safety.

Yes, I have been conducting an interview with a sincere Egyptian citizen who has the title of president of the Republic.

Mauritania

Government Establishes Ties With Baltic States

LD2109084691 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has said that out of their eagerness to develop their friendly relations, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Government of the Republic of Estonia have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today.

Another statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said that out of their eagerness to develop their friendly relations, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today.

A further statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said that out of their eagerness to develop their friendly relations, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Government of the Republic of Estonia [country as heard] have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today.

Western Sahara

Polisario—Morocco Plans 'New March' to Sahara

LD2409120591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Polisario Front last night issued a statement saying that the Moroccan Government has mobilized about 100 buses in the city of Tan-Tan in southern Morocco in preparation for the start of a new campaign in the direction of Western Sahara, similar to the first Green March in 1975. To stage the new march, the Polisario Front statement pointed out, the Moroccan authorities have massed some 175,000 Moroccans.

It is to be recalled that Moroccan Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri announced yesterday that Morocco has full confidence that the United Nations will fully implement the peace plan in Western Sahara.

Bahrain

Amir, Saudi Minister Review Gulf, Arab Issues

JN2409153291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, this morning received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who is on a visit to Bahrain. Al-Faysal conveyed to the amir the greetings of Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his wishes for good health and happiness.

During the meeting, the amir and the Saudi foreign minister reviewed their strong relations. They exchanged opinions on the latest developments in the Gulf and issues that concern the Gulf Cooperation Council states, in addition to Arab and international issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Air Defense Commander Resigns 24 Sep

LD2409235291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Jiddah, 24 Sep (SPA)—A royal order has been issued promoting His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Ibn Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz [commander of Royal Air Defenses] to staff general and approving relieving him of his post at his own request.

Here is the text of the royal order:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate:

No. A/8 dated 16 Rabi al-Awwal 1412 AH [24 September]

With God's aid, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, after perusing Article 28 of the Officers Service Law issued under Royal Decree No. M/43 dated 28/8/1393 AH, and based on what was brought to our attention by His Royal Highness the minister of defense, aviation, and inspector general concerning the desire of His Highness Lt. Gen. Prince Khalid Ibn Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to be relieved of his position, and in view of the sincere efforts His Highness the Prince had been making in all the work he was assigned to carry out, which we have appreciated, we have ordered the following:

1. To promote His Highness to staff general.

2. To agree to His Highness' request to be relieved of his post.

3. His Highness the minister of defense, aviation, and inspector general is to implement this order.

United Arab Emirates

Libyan Envoy Arrives With Letter From Qadhdhafi

JN2409154291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH)—Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations and personal envoy of the Libyan president, today arrived in Abu Dhabi on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within the framework of a tour to a number of states in the region.

EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY cites the Libyan envoy as saying he will convey a letter to His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, from Libyan president Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The letter, he says, falls within the context of the constant consultation with Arab leaders over developments and issues of mutual concern.

Passes Note to Shaykh Zayid

JN2509102891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shyakh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, dealing with the current Arab situation and bilateral relations. The message was delivered by Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan ties and personal envoy of President al-Qadhdhafi, when President Zayid received him this evening.

Iranian Envoy Brings Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message

JN2409121691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1017 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. Besharati was welcomed on arrival by Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al- Qasimi, director of the Legal Department and Studies at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of officials.

Shaykh Zayid Receives Note

JN2509095291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the developments in the region and bilateral relations. The message was delivered by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati when Shaykh Zayid received him this evening.

Reports on UN Inspection Mission, Teams

Use of Helicopters Approved

JN2509092391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0914 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 25 Sep (INA)—Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, has informed the Security Council of Iraq's approval of the UN inspection team's use of helicopters to implement the tasks assigned to it under Resolution 687 and other relevant resolutions.

The Iraqi permanent UN envoy addressed a letter to French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, president of the Security Council for this month, telling him that the details related to this topic will be agreed on between the competent Iraqi authorities and Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the special committee.

Tariq 'Aziz Briefs Press

JN2409163591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1611 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has affirmed that Iraq will not allow the international inspection teams to overstep the boundaries of their missions, and will not allow their missions, which have been described by UN Security Council resolutions, to turn into intelligence missions to serve the purposes of U.S. or hostile intelligence services.

Addressing a news conference here this evening attended by INA and Arab and foreign press and news agency correspondents, Tariq 'Aziz refuted the hostile news media's allegation that David Kay, head of the inspection team, and his team were held by the Iraqi authorities at the site they visited today. He said: The Iraqi authorities did not hold David Kay or any person working with them.

He stressed that the head of the team is currently at the site by his own wish and that the Iraqi authorities asked him to hand over the copies he illegally photocopied and to return the documents that they carried to the team's car.

The deputy prime minister said that the head of the team and his companions can leave the site when he delivers the pictures and the boxes, which contain names as well as curricula vitae. He has to leave what he took illegally. He is free to leave the site or stay at it, if he wishes to see the documents.

He asserted that the Iraqi authorities did not prevent the head of the team from seeing the documents, so that he and the members of the team could make sure that they were curricula vitae. He added: We will not allow him to photograph them or take them by force.

At his press conference, Tariq 'Aziz dealt with Iraq's experience with David Kay, the American who is heading the international inspection team. He said: This person is the one who created the famous problem last June. According to our information, he is a U.S. intelligence officer. 'Aziz stressed that every time this person heads an inspection team, he stirs up trouble, contrary to the teams which visited Iraq before or after him and which did not face any noteworthy problems. He said the Iraqi authorities cooperated with these inspection teams which did not raise any problems and clamor, as happened when David Kay came in the past and as is happening now.

The deputy prime minister explained that the nuclear inspection team that was in Baghdad last week performed its tasks in a normal manner. He indicated that the Iraqi authorities were informed that a large team would arrive at the beginning of this week and would be headed by this person, David Kay, who arrived the day before yesterday. As usual, he was received by Iraqi officials. The next day, yesterday, he requested a visit to a site close to or opposite the al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad, 'Aziz noted. He explained that this site contains documents concerning the activities of the Atomic Energy Agency for peaceful purposes.

He said the team went to that site and saw all that was there, without any obstacles from the competent Iraqi authorities. However, this person, David Kay, decided to seize documents, which were actually removed by the inspection team. He said the inspection team includes a large number of persons who are not technicians and who are probably officers and soldiers sent on a mission that has nothing to do with the missions of the inspection teams or with the stipulations of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz added: The Iraqi officials who escorted the team informed it that it could take these documents, which must first be recorded and described so that no extraneous material can be inserted into our documents, as such extraneous documents could be used afterward in the disinformation campaign led by the United States and its allies against Iraq.

He said that David Kay, head of the inspection team, refused to comply with this normal and legitimate request. Such a procedure was followed with other inspection teams, and there were no problems. After a give-and-take session, followed by Rambo-like shows and clamorous contacts with New York lasting several hours, the head of the team agreed to leave the building and receive the documents later after they were recorded and documented.

Tariq 'Aziz indicated that specialized Iraqi officials inventoried the documents late at night. At 0230 today, the head of the Iraqi team went to inform David Kay that the documents were ready. These documents were carried from the site to the team's hotel and were delivered to it. The documents were properly logged.

Tariq 'Aziz said: The international inspection team this morning went to another building housing documents different from those housed in the building they visited yesterday—documents related to the activity of the Atomic

Energy Agency. Therefore, we agreed to hand them over because they were technical documents related to the equipment that the inspection teams have already seen and asked questions about. They received answers to all of their questions in accordance with the set procedures.

Tariq 'Aziz added: The building which the team visited today—and they may still be there right now—houses paperwork, documents, and papers which we in Iraq call "personnel files;" that is, the names of the employees, their salaries, and all papers related to them. These papers have nothing to do with technical activity; it is those papers the inspection teams are supposed to take.

Tariq 'Aziz said the inspection team took these papers and photocopied some of them, with the clear aim of obtaining a list of employees working on the project. He stressed that Iraqi officials refused to allow them to take the documents and asked them to return the photocopies because there was no basis for photocopying; also, inspection teams do not have the right to take the documents because this is not part of their mission.

He pointed out that Iraqi officials have allowed them to see the documents to confirm that they do not contain anything related to industrial or technical activity. However, they insisted and still insist on getting those documents and keeping the photocopies that they took in an irregular manner.

He said: We refused and will continue to refuse to hand over these documents to the inspection team because they are irrelevant to the Security Council resolutions. There is no text in the pertinent Security Council resolutions indicating that such documents, which contain the names of those who work on various industrial projects in the country, must be handed in.

He stressed that the objective of seizing these documents and the lists of names is known, and is not related to the duties of the inspection team as described by the Security Council resolutions. Rather, the objective is a pure intelligence one by which U.S. intelligence would seize lists of names of workers on the Iraqi projects. These lists would then be transferred automatically to the Mosad and the other hostile intelligence organs, which constitutes a threat to the lives of the workers on the project and terror for them and their families. This is absolutely not permitted.

Tariq 'Aziz added: We have cooperated with all inspection teams. We have provided all the facilities they have requested, and we have allowed them to visit all installations and sites they asked to visit on the spot with no delays. We have facilitated their task. The teams carried out their duties in a normal manner. He referred to many statements by heads of inspection teams who spoke of good cooperation between them and the Iraqi authorities concerned.

Replying to a journalist's question, Tariq 'Aziz said: David Kay, head of the inspection team, fabricated a crisis in June. This fabricated crisis was exploited by the United States and some of its allies to threaten Iraq once again and create a clamor about Iraq. This fabricated, biased, and premeditated clamor was employed to prolong the unjust economic embargo on our people.

He pointed out that there was strong Arab and international pressure on the U.S. Administration and its allies as a result of their continued determination to impose the unjust embargo on the Iraqi people. The U.S. Administration, however, exploited this fabricated, biased, and premeditated incident in June as one of its flimsy and false pretexts to practice its criminal and hostile policy against the Iraqi people.

The deputy prime minister added: Now they are repeating the same story again. The U.S. President was supposed to address the UN General Assembly yesterday, but it seems he waited until this story surfaced so that he could include it in his speech and continue his hostile campaign against Iraq. The objectives are clear. These are not the actions of UN inspection teams; these are pure U.S. acts and behaviors that aim to justify all forms of aggression against Iraq, including aggression through the unfair economic blockade and attempts to discredit Iraq.

Answering another question, Tariq 'Aziz said: The inspection team is not being held. The inspection team went there, and is still there, by choice. They can leave whenever they want after they give back the photocopies and personnel files of the project employees that they took by force.

'Aziz added: We have contacted the foreign minister and Iraq's permanent envoy in New York. We have explained the situation to them. As far as I know, the permanent envoy was supposed to meet with the UN Security Council president before this news conference to explain the real situation. We have also asked him to brief Ambassador Ekeus, who heads the inspection teams and who is stationed in New York, on the real situation.

The press conference was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Naji al-Hadithi, under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Answering a question on how some of these teams behave in a manner contrary to their main tasks and encroaching on Iraqi sovereignty, Tariq 'Aziz said: Clearly, they want to humiliate these people and subjugate them to their will. This will not happen because these people have their pride, with a history that goes back 6,000 years. These people have passed through difficult circumstances in their lives and will not submit to the will of Mr. Bush, Mr. Major, or anyone else.

'Aziz asserted that Iraq will adhere to its principles and national sovereignty, and said: We are prepared to sacrifice our lives for this and they must understand this fact. They do not understand that they will be wasting their time and efforts in a losing battle.

'Aziz emphasized that the people and their political leadership will not submit to the aggressive policy the United States is pursuing. He said the Foreign Ministry and the entire country are working to defend their legitimate rights in all international forums like the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab League, and through international contacts.

He said that U.S. terrorism is now being being employed in the international arena and that the U.S. Government is terrorizing peoples and governments to compel them to remain silent on crimes being committed against Iraq, against the Palestinian people, and in other regions of the world. He said this will not last because the desire for freedom, faith, and justice is very strong not only in this country but throughout the world.

Answering a question concerning Iraq's position on the UN request to use helicopters to transport the UN missile inspection teams, the deputy prime minister said: Our government's latest position on that issue is that we are prepared to allow the UN teams to use German helicopters. Although we were prepared to provide Iraqi helicopters for that sort of mission, they have turned down the offer. This is abnormal and not logical. If they need helicopters to make ordinary trips or visits or to carry out the inspection, then what is the difference between this or that helicopter?

'Aziz added: Iraq was also prepared to provide them with U.S.-made helicopters. But they insist on using helicopters provided to them by the German Government. We said it would be all right to use those helicopters, but what for? They said they wanted to use them to go to remote areas in the west of Iraq. We said fine. Your helicopters must be based at al-Habbaniyah air base, which is close to the western areas, and you can use them to go to those areas. Before you do that, however, these helicopters must be inspected by Iraqi authorities to make sure there are no weapons or spying equipment on board.

Tariq 'Aziz added: We also told them that you must not go near Baghdad or its suburbs, and this was not part of their previous plan. Inspection teams can use their own helicopters if they want to, but these helicopters must remain at al-Habbaniyah air base. They can fly freely from there to the western areas of Iraq, and one or more Iraqi officials must accompany them in the helicopters during the journey.

'Aziz pointed out that those are not restrictions, but necessary measures, taking into consideration Iraq's security.

He said: Any action needs to meet specific requirements. Such requirements are normal and do not run contrary to the tasks of the inspection teams. They want to use helicopters to arrive quickly at the sites they want to inspect. Indeed, they can do so, and there is no objection to that. To make sure they want to do that, however, and not anything that we suspect—and we have every right to do so—we demanded that an Iraqi employee be present in the helicopter in a manner that does not affect the team's tasks. We also wanted to make sure that the helicopter did not carry any equipment that exceeded the essential requirements of its mission.

He stressed that such measures are routine and legitimate procedures specified by the Iraqi Government to assure the country's national security.

Responding to another question on the threat that such problems with the teams may result in military intervention against Iraq, and Iraq's stand on that point, the deputy prime minister responded: It seems to us that these fabricated incidents are aimed at creating an atmosphere of tension to justify aggression by the United States and its allies, or at least to justify the continuation of the unjust blockade against us.

He added: These threats are baseless, because Iraq is implementing the UN Security Council resolutions in a normal manner, has shown goodwill, and has cooperated with the inspection teams. We do not, however, accept the acts of some persons who did not come here to implement the UN resolutions, but for other purposes that serve his country or the agency for which he works.

The deputy prime minister added: We will not yield to the whims of the head of the inspection team, Mr. Kay, or others. There is a UN Security Council resolution which we are prepared to implement in letter and spirit. The head of the team should abide by the text of the resolution. He should also respect the mission he came for and should not add suspect purposes that do not serve the basic purposes of the United Nations, but that serve the purposes of the intelligence service for which he works. He indicated that when Mr. Ekeus arrived after the first incident—or the first clamor—stirred up by the same person [words indistinct] why are you filling the inspection teams with Americans? He stressed that most of those persons work for U.S. intelligence services.

He explained that there are more than 150 member states in the United Nations and that numerous states, such as the Soviet Union, China, Brazil, India, and others, have experience in the field of nuclear energy. They all have long experience in this field. He wondered why people from these countries were not added to the teams, since most inspection teams are more than 70 percent American. Why is it so?

He pointed out that the U.S. President does not conceal his intentions to destroy the Iraqi Government. He says so on a daily basis, and this has nothing to do with Security Council resolutions. This U.S. policy is clear. Why are Americans, whose objective is to serve their President, employed? Why are they chosen for such tasks? All this is fabricated and premeditated with the aim of creating problems that serve the U.S. policy against Iraq.

Answering a question on Iraq's position on the possible UN resolution to send military aircraft to accompany the UN helicopters, the deputy prime minister said: This is an assumption. No resolution like this has yet been adopted. We hope the Security Council will reach a sound resolution to the situation. If they want the teams

to carry out their work in a normal manner, then the requirements for their work should not run contradictory to the work's harmonious flow. He explained that the foreign minister, who is currently in New York, informed the Security Council president that Mr. Ekeus can come to Baghdad to discuss preparations for the helicopter operations. We hope this problem will be resolved through direct contacts between the Iraqi authorities and Mr. Ekeus.

Responding to a question regarding the provocative way in which the inspection teams perform their missions in Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz said: We are acting in a normal and calm way with every inspection team visiting Iraq. If the inspection team acts in a normal way, we act in a normal way, facilitate its mission in accordance with what we have committed ourselves to before the UN Security Council, and enable it to perform these missions in a normal way. But when the team or any member of the team acts in a manner which, as you said, is provocative and infringes on Iraq's sovereignty and dignity, we will stop it in a decisive and unequivocal way, like we are doing now with that person who is trying to exceed his mission to render a service to his masters in the CIA and the Mosad. We will not allow them to trespass.

Regarding the limits on movement for the UN inspection teams in Iraq and if they have the right to visit any site, Tariq 'Aziz said: Yes. According to the resolutions imposed on Iraq, they can visit many of the sites they wish to visit. But they are accompanied on each visit by Iraqi officials to control their behavior within the limits set by the UN resolutions. They are also interested in not allowing them to exceed their specific missions.

Refusal To Cede Personnel Files

JN2409190991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (INA)—Iraq today formally affirmed that it will neither allow nor agree to deliver the personnel files of employees working in scientific fields.

This was stated to INA by Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, following a meeting with the UN Security Council president this morning.

An INA correspondent in New York cited Ambassador al-Anbari as saying that he informed the UN Security Council president in clear language that Iraq will not deliver personnel files, will not allow the inspection team to take the film it shot of the personnel files of employees in Iraqi scientific fields, and that the members of the team must return the film. When they do so, they can leave the building whenever they wish.

Ambassador al-Anbari added that as Iraq cooperates with the UN Security Council, it will not allow these files to be handed over. He said these files deal with the social status and life of scientific research employees and such files have nothing to do with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Earlier, Ambassador al-Anbari told reporters that he informed the UN Security Council president that Iraq will not allow the inspection team to take the employees' personnel files.

Responding to a journalist's question on the real identity of some inspectors, Iraq's representative said: Some spies are better than others.

UN Envoy Protests

JN2509084691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0824 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpt] United Nations/New York, 25 Sep (INA)—Iraq has strongly protested to the United Nations about the behavior of the nuclear inspection team currently in Iraq, particularly the actions of its leader, David Kay. An INA correspondent in New York said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, conveyed a message in this regard to French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, president of the Security Council, early this morning. [passage omitted]

Security Council Head Said Satisfied

JN2409113391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn affirmed to French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, president of the Security Council, that Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN special committee, can go to Baghdad to reach agreement with the involved Iraqi quarters on the details regarding permission for helicopters to go to Iraq. In a statement to an INA correspondent in New York, Ahmad Husayn said that the president of the UN Security Council expressed satisfaction with the Iraqi response regarding the issue of helicopters, and that these planes should not undertake any action outside their duties in a way that might encroach on Iraq's security.

During his second meeting with the president of the Security Council yesterday, the foreign minister described some inspection teams as tendentious, particularly the committee chaired by David Kay, who created a problem last June.

Ahmad Husayn explained to the president of the Security Council that the method used with all inspection committees is based on the documentation of any equipment or document demanded by the committees in accordance with vouchers, documented and signed, by the Iraqi side and a committee representative. This method has been used and agreed upon. David Kay rejected this method, however, to tendentiously excite the public against Iraq, Husayn added.

The minister affirmed that the committee can receive the documents after the voucher is signed by the Iraqi authorities. He stated that the inspection committees would have been able to accomplish their tasks in the best possible manner if most of them had not been driven by tendentious motives to achieve certain things.

This shows that the Council must now realize that some of these committees work according to dishonest motives, and that they purposefully seek to foment trouble and harm Iraq with a view to galvanizing public opinion and the Security Council against it.

An INA correspondent said that the president of the Security Council affirmed to the minister during the meeting the need to document any equipment or document by use of a signed voucher in order to prevent misunderstandings.

Media Tour of Inspected Building

JN2409163091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—INA and Arab and foreign news agency and television correspondents today visited the building that was inspected by the the sixth nuclear inspection team this morning.

In a statement to journalists during a tour of the building's offices, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, affirmed that the mission of the nuclear inspection team is to assess the Iraqi nuclear program, not to seize official documents and letters concerning personnel in the establishments of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

He refuted the suspect allegations of the sixth nuclear inspection team in which it indicated that the Iraqi authorities prevented them from seizing certain documents. He said: We found the request very strange. Therefore, we did not find any justification for them to take these files.

He indicated that it is surprising that the inspection team, whose mission is confined to assessing the Iraqi nuclear program, asks for things that have nothing to do with their mission.

Envoy to Amman Said Out in Diplomatic Reshuffle

PM2409085891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Said To Have Been Relieved of Post"]

[Excerpt] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to Arab diplomatic sources in Cyprus, the Iraqi Government has decided to relieve Nuri al-Wayyis, Iraqi ambassador to Amman. They were unable to say who would replace him and to what post he would be moved, but they emphasized that this measure is part of large-scale dismissals and transfers within the Iraqi diplomatic corps on the basis of resolutions passed by the recent Ba'th Party congress concluded some two weeks ago.

The sources said that there was much severe criticism of al-Wayyis' performance during the Gulf war. Some officials accused him of having been unbalanced at one stage, while others said that he behaved as though his country were not at war and that he conducted commercial transactions without the knowledge of Iraqi officials in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Memo to UN Protests 22-23 Sep U.S. Overflights

JN2409134291 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept 24, INA—American jet fighters have violated anew the inviolability of Iraqi air spaces with the aim of surveillance and provocation.

Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations made it clear in a memorandum addressed to the U.N Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that American war planes had flown 38 air sorties during the 22nd and 23rd of this month.

He has further said that American planes have had covered flights over the areas of Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, Tal 'Afar and al-'Imadiyah.

He has also added that another aerial formation consisting of two F-16 fighters flew at 1230 hours on the same day over Farnas base at an altitude of 2.5 km with a speed of 720 kph.

He added that at 1750 hours of the same day a helicopter gunship was hovering over an area to the south of the city of Dahuk.

Failure Seen for U.S. 'Malevolent Objectives'

JN2509081891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0612 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that Bush is mistaken if he thinks that his feverish statements and threats will succeed in intimidating and blackmailing Iraq and prevent it from stating its clear opinion regarding the U.S. capitulation plan to liquidate the Palestine question.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that Bush might succeed in tightening the siege on our people and might deliberately seek to have a new unjust resolution issued by the Security Council against Iraq. It is not new that he is paving the way for a new comprehensive aggression against our country.

The paper adds: Whatever he does or says, Bush will not be able to hide U.S. double standards from the international community. Nor can he convince anybody that he is using a single standard in dealing with the issues of the region. Above all, he and his allies will fail to achieve any of the objectives they failed to achieve up to now despite all their crimes and hateful, racist, and barbaric practices.

The newspaper lashes out at whom it describes as the dictator of the U.S. regime, Bush, who is still persisting in the arrogance of power that created in him a rabid aggression and determination to pursue war against Iraq.

The paper adds that Bush is still making up excuses and telling exposed lies to continue the implementation of the aggressive, conspiratorial scheme and enable the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance to achieve the objectives it has failed to achieve thus far.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say that Bush has continued to use international legitimacy as a cover for himself and his evil intentions. In fact, Bush is trying to bring the UN General Assembly down and subject it to the U.S. will, just as he brought the Security Council down and stripped it of all its values and all its responsibilities for the safety and security of the UN member states.

The paper highlights the blatant U.S. double standards when approaching the issues of the region, asserting that the U.S. President is unjustly and aggressively accusing Iraq of what he calls "continuation to violate UN resolutions" at a time when Bush is throwing the full weight of the United States and mobilizing all its capabilities to annul UN Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism, despite the fact that Israel has stepped up its crimes and racist practices.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration is creating all this false propagandistic clamor against Iraq, once talking about the issue of helicopters and at other times about the issue of documents, as well as making up other stories, because it seeks to achieve several malevolent objectives at the same time.

The paper asserts that this administration wants to downgrade the blockade. This is what the war criminal Bush said openly at the UN General Assembly, after many free voices have been raised calling for lifting the blockade and ending the suffering of the Iraqis. The U.S. Administration also seeks to cover up for the U.S.-Kuwaiti agreement which has turned Kuwait into a U.S. protectorate and posed a serious threat to pan-Arab security.

Kurdish Radio on Futility of Talks With Baghdad

NC2309183591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Sep 91

["Text" of Kamaran Qaradaghi article published in the 21 September edition of AL-HAYAH]

[Text] There are sufficient reasons to believe that the negotiations between the Kurds and Baghdad have become useless, and that the Kurds, who claim to have asked for the negotiations under special conditions, must stop looking for justifications to continue them.

Most Kurds, including those who defend talks which have turned into a dialogue of the deaf, realize that there is no hope of reaching an agreement, even a dishonorable one.

No sane person in Iraq or elsewhere can have confidence in an isolated, rejected, and detested regime led by a megalomaniac who thinks he is equal to Nebuchadnezzar or Salah al-Din.

The overwhelming majority of Iraqi Kurds agree that Saddam Husayn does not deserve such an appraisal.

So the Kurdish leadership will have to justify to the Kurds, Iraqis, and the world how it can pledge allegiance to the regime; recognize the role of Saddam Husayn, chief engineer of the March 1970 agreement resulting from the K"rdish struggle that started before the [words indistinct]; and defend national gains, especially those achieved during the 17-30 July marches—which led to the tragedies inflicted by the marches' leader on the Iraqi Kurds.

Among the many current anomalies is that the actions of the leaders of the Kurdish parties, members of the Kurdistani Front which is negotiating with Saddam's regime on behalf of the Kurdish Movement in Iraq, on domestic and foreign relations are contradictory with the draft agreement they are supposed to sign. These leaders are still active (?members) of the joint action committee of Iraqi opposition forces, including parties and movements, which the new Iraqi law on parties regards as traitorous, subservient, sectarian, and anarchic [shu'ubi].

Furthermore, the Kurds know that Baghdad is overtly and covertly preparing obedient (?elements) from the Kurdistani Front to use as legitimate Kurdish representatives. While the draft agreement commits the front to antagonizing the United States, Iran, Turkey, and Syria, the front maintains relations with all these states even to the point of seeking to strengthen relations, especially with the United States, the arch-enemy of Saddam Husayn. It would be naive to believe that the front intends to sever these relations.

Perhaps Iraq's current situation prompts the Kurdish leadership to bolster its role [words indistinct] during the negotiations with Baghdad. This role calls for democracy in Iraq as the only guarantee for the Kurds to exercise their national rights. By presenting itself as a democratic national Iraqi movement, and as Kurdish, the leadership has won more respect at domestic, regional, and international levels.

When the Kurdistani Front visits Washington this week at the invitation of the U.S. Administration, it will be seen to be qualified to play a greater role in the wider Iraqi context.

It is thus logical to assume that more Kurds believe the time has come for the Kurdish leadership to adopt a stand toward Saddam Husayn that will bolster its credibility among the Kurds, the Iraqis, and the international community.

Foreign Minister Meets Counterparts at UN

JN2509094891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 25 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn met here last night with Tunisian Foreign Minister

Habib Ben Yahya. The foreign minister reviewed Iraq's positions on current developments and stressed Iraq's efforts to bolster ties with Tunisia and achieve Arab coordination in general.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn also met with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock. They discussed issues under consideration at the United Nations and ties between the two countries.

Housing Minister Leaves for Cairo Meeting

JN2509114591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Housing and Reconstruction Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad left for Cairo today at the head of a delegation to take part in the meetings of the Executive Office of the Arab Housing Ministers Council, due to begin there next Saturday and which will last for three days. [passage omitted]

Shamir—'All' Territories 'Ours;' Sharon Speaks

TA2409152691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Attending the inauguration ceremony of the settlement of Tzur Yig'al, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared: All of the territories are ours.

Mr. Shamir said that every territory that can be built on will be inhabited as far as the horizon. He added: We are not troubled by the geographic location of Tzur Yig'al.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Ari'el Sharon, speaking at the ceremony, said that some among us would like to write the White Paper anew and force it on us. We are in a situation in which we are already debating the borders of 1947, which is why Tzur Yig'al has caused such a storm although it has been built within the boundaries of Israel, Sharon said.

Green Line 'Does Not Exist'

TA2409194591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, in Kokhav Ya'ir, following the inauguration ceremony of Tzur Yig'al, on 24 September—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] For those who initiated the establishment of this settlement, the term Green Line means nothing. I have often said the same about myself. I love the color green; I love green fields; but a green line that indicates some restricted zone in Eretz Yisra'el does not exist. Everybody—in the United States and the around the world—knows what my opinions and positions are. I believe that Eretz Yisra'el is the homeland of the people of Israel. When I say Eretz Yisra'el, I mean the whole of Eretz Yisra'el. It is true that there are disagreements over this territorial principle.

There are disagreements between us and the Arabs. Well, I hope that this issue will be negotiated in the peace process.

[Sukenik] Sir, how do you view the threat that seems real, at least today, that for every dollar spent in the territories in the future, the Americans will deduct from aid to aliyah and perhaps even annual aid, not just the guarantees?

[Shamir] Well, these are rumors and speculation. I do not know whether this is being contemplated seriously. In any event, it is certain that we will still have to confront many issues and deal with them. At the same time, we cannot deny the fact that there are territorial disagreements between us and the Arabs.

MK's Say Four New Settlements Being Built

TA2409160691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The settlement of Tzur Yig'al was inaugurated a few minutes ago. The widow of Yig'al Kohen, after whom it is named, unveiled the cornerstone.

Activists of left-wing movements this afternoon staged a demonstration near the settlement of Qarney Shomron, on a site called Neve Oranim, where some 2,000 housing units are being built. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the demonstration was attended by members of the Peace Now movement, Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, and several Knesset members [MK]. Some of the demonstrators prevented trucks from entering the construction site, and a fight broke out.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 24 September adds that "in its official reaction, the Construction and Housing Ministry says that the Peace Now monitoring committees, by publishing untrue information, continue to damage Israel's efforts to attain peace and absorb immigration. Sources linked with settling Judaea and Samaria said that they have not heard of a settlement by the name of Neve Oranim and that the only conceivable possibility is that the construction work at the site is for the expansion of an existing settlement, in this case Qarney Shomron. They also said that Peace Now is taking advantage of the state of U.S.-Israeli relations to grab headlines on the day Tzur Yig'al is being established."]

MK's Ya'ir Tzaban, Hayim Oron, and 'Oded Zucker said that they have information about four additional settlements now being built in the territories in addition to the expansion of existing settlements by thousands of mobile homes on more than 100 sites. They say that investment in these areas, which are damaging the chances to convene a peace conference and receive U.S. guarantees, has reached some 3 billion shekels.

Shamir Welcomes Release of Mann

TA2509052991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Israel has welcomed the release of Jack Mann and hopes that the UN secretary general will succeed in his efforts to secure a comprehensive exchange that includes missing and captive Israeli servicemen. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made the following statement:

[Begin recording] First of all, I am glad that one hostage has been released and I share the joy of his family and his friends, but I cannot say anything about the further steps of ours in these complicated negotiations. I would hope that in the next future, in the very soon future, I will be able to announce something that our public will be glad to hear. [end recording]

Iran Said Not Meeting Commitments

TA2509072291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The defense minister's media adviser has said that Iran has so far not met all the commitments it made to the UN secretary general and that the information transmitted to Israel about Yosef Fink was insufficient because his fate could not be unequivocally ascertained on its basis. In an announcement issued this morning, Dani Nave said that Israel informed the secretary general of its readiness to make an additional gesture to free detainees on condition that he bring precise information on the fate of navigator Ron Arad. This has also not yet been done. Israel continues to demand a solution to the problem of the remaining Israeli MIA's and POW's, but Iran and the organizations under its tutelage have not met their commitments to the UN secretary general, Nave said. Israel expects these commitments to be fulfilled, he added.

Release of Prisoners Not Expected

TA2409204691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Israel says that there is no truth in British media reports that Lebanese prisoners will be released from al-Khiyam prison following the release of Briton Jack Mann and in return for information about MIA Yosef Fink.

Senior sources told our army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum that Israel has received no new information concerning Fink or the other Israeli MIA's or POW's.

Shamir Urges: 'Finish the Job' Against Iraq

TA2409175891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with Shmu'el Tal on 24 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] There was a certain degree of surprise before the Gulf crisis. Although Israel and other countries knew that Iraq was making extraordinary efforts to achieve nonconventional capability, the rapidity of its accomplishments was surprising, and Iraq had indeed made significant progress. To our regret, the war did not put an end to Baghdad's pursuit of nonconventional weaponry, which endangers the entire region and its inhabitants. Now, we are not surprised by the various ploys Iraq insists on carrying out to continue its relentless efforts to achieve its goals.

[Tal] Is there anything that can be done now? Can the United States do much to change this development?

[Shamir] It could if it wanted to. It could achieve its goal. It could put an end to Iraq's relentless striving to possess those dangerous weapons, and I think that it is the United States' responsiblity as the only superpower in the world today. This is a responsiblity that stems from the situation in the region. What is happening in Iraq threatens the quiet, security, and stability of the entire Middle East and its inhabitants. It is both an obligation and a must to put an end to this.

[Tal] Mr. Shamir, do you foresee the possibility that we will witness another round of what happened during the Gulf war if the Iraqis remain adamant in their refusal to cooperate, and if so, what should Israel do? What role should we play in this?

[Shamir] Look, we have no control over all that could happen or what should be done in this region. Today, the supervision and the authority to implement things is in the hands of the United States and its allies in the great coalition. They have to finish the job they started. Israel, to my regret, is not part of this coalition. We can only do our best to defend our country's security.

U.S. Policy Seen Strengthening Shamir Position

TA2409131491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 91 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Another Half-Done Job"]

[Text] After the prime minister did us the favor of opening his eyes and seeing that what is happening to us in the United States is not "a bad dream," as he said, but a bad reality, it became evident that although the entire world was on his side, Bush once again stopped in mid-course and did not manage to reap the fruit of his labors. While Yitzhaq Shamir claims that the American people will return to their senses—meaning they will voice their opposition to the President—he knows full well from his reading of mountains of reports, both classified and unclassified, that U.S. Jewish activists are already searching for a shelter to escape the President's fury. There is now no doubt that as long as Bush sits in the White House, nobody will manage to break the linkage between U.S. aid in all its forms—political, economic, and, God forbid, military—and Israel's occupation policy. But just as the opposition in the United States does not have the power to replace Bush and his policy, there is no sufficiently attractive opposition in Israel to threaten Shamir and his policy.

It is possible that tactical public relations motives will lead Shamir to attend the opening ceremony of the peace conference, but the conference will be frozen long before this government freezes settlements. The right wing will prefer to ask the Israeli voter for an additional mandate for the "unity of the country" rather than get into the thick of negotiations from which Eretz Yisra'el cannot emerge undivided. As long as the alternative remains Shim'on Peres and/or Yitzhaq Rabin, one can expect the next election campaign to focus on the personality and policy of George Bush, who appears to be the Likud's only competitor. Those who accept the claims that Israel is facing an anti-Semite who is determined to uproot Jews from their lands in order to hand them over to the Arabs will stand firm and elect the party that promises them a tougher stand against the foe. The others—those who believe that Israel has finally found an American

ruler who is going out of his way to end the protracted conflict with the Arabs—will prefer a party whose platform promises understanding and cooperation with the administration on the basis of the principle of giving up territories, settlements, and isolation in return for peace, security, and immigrant absorption.

To make real progress in the peace process, Bush must seek the trust of Israeli and not U.S. public opinion. Trust is not achieved by going back on an agreement with the Government of Israel that it should postpone presenting its request for loan guarantees to September and then, when the time comes, fighting an all-out war, led by the President, to obtain another 120-day delay. It is difficult to gain the trust of Israelis, not only of the right wing, by making conflicting declarations and offering confused explanations over the guarantees affair. At first, the President said something vague about the damage it will cause the peace process. Suspicion grew when it appeared that the Arabs are not involved in the matter. Later, James Baker arrived in Jerusalem amid expectations of a compromise; these went up in smoke a short time later in the skies where a senior official—in other words, James Baker himself or somebody speaking in his name—fired off the linkage between the settlements and guarantees, accompanied by an emotional "damn."

One mistake follows another: In his eagerness to make sure the Israelis, Palestinians, and Syrians do not run away at the last minute, the secretary of state has promised each of them a memorandum of understanding or letter of intent as well as negotiations that will meet most of their wishes. Were a solution that satisfies all sides available, there would be no need for a conference. Instead of making clear that the blanket is too small, the Americans are trying to please everybody, so that they are forced to pull it down to cover Israel's legs, which means the Arabs' legs are getting cold. So they cover the Arabs' legs and leave Israel's out in the cold. The Americans would have enjoyed much more trust and understanding had Baker chosen to declare on Tuesday in Jerusalem and not Wednesday in Damascus that Resolution 242 refers to all sectors, including the Golan Heights.

It may be assumed that the Americans have explanations for all the questions and weighty complaints against the Israeli Government, such as the charge that it exploited (in other words, used for settlements) the $400 million the United States guaranteed it. But while Shamir, Arens, Netanyahu, and even Sharon permit themselves to appeal to U.S. public opinion and Congress above the heads of the administration, Bush and Baker have not tried to address the Israelis directly and remind them, for instance, of the setbacks Shamir brought on Reagan and Shultz, who were not suspected of anti-Semitism and oversympathy for the Arabs. Bush and Baker are abandoning the Israeli arena to right-wing elements who consider the peace process a trap to be avoided. Smiling Ambassador William Brown has rejected innumerable requests by this writer for an interview, which would have permitted him to wash off the mud Israeli ministers have been hurling at his President. It appears that he is too busy collecting garbage from the Tel Aviv beach. The embassy's large information service has not initiated a si·gle briefing for political correspondents. Up to now, I have not heard the voice of the U.S. press officer, who took over his job three months ago. On a different note, even the Iraqi people were given explanations before Bush went on the offensive against them.

Surveys in the United States forecast an overwhelming victory for Bush in the battle for public support. The way he gains ground in New York and loses it in Tel Aviv plays into the hands of Shamir and cuts away at the tiny bit of footing still remaining for the opposition. If the President continues in that vein, Mrs. Baker will find during her next trip here that the early elections have made Massada the most popular tourist spot in Israel.

Repealing UN Resolution Would Not Help Peace

JN2509093691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Sep 91 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Settlement Is a Racist Practice"]

[Text] Only hours after President Bush had urged the UN General Assembly to repeal its resolution considering Zionism a form of racism, Shamir underscored the racist nature of Israel's policies. He announced that all occupied territories belong to Israel, and that buildings on those territories will go up as far as the horizon. This means the Israeli prime minister wanted to match the U.S. request with some act to make it clear that the call for repealing the resolution will not prevent his government from proceeding with its settlement activity, and that Bush's step will be accompanied by Israeli determination to pursue this policy. It becomes clear, therefore, that the U.S. request came at the wrong time, echoing further Israeli defiance and arrogance.

Thanks to its subversive practices and continuing defiance of international legitimacy, Israel, without doubt, drove the world community, 16 years ago, to pass a resolution equating Zionism with racism. There is also no doubt that Shamir's statement yesterday will only reinforce this conviction and suggest that there is no reason at all to hasten to cancel the resolution as long as Israel's practices remain unchanged, especially the policy of swallowing up Arab land and deliberately changing its demographic status for racist, backward motives.

It is important to draw attention to the fact that favorable response to the U.S. request would not facilitate the peace process. It would mean a reward to the Israeli aggressors for their hardline policy and continuation of the racist settlement activity. The world community should suspend the U.S. request until Israel proves it has abandoned its racist policy and accepted a just and comprehensive peace based on a peace-for-land exchange.

At any rate, those who boast insistence on the racist settlement policy must not be rewarded. They are responsible for the continued adoption of the international resolution, which condemns the racist nature of their entity, and they, indeed, enhance this racism through their policies and practices. If they want the world community to forgive them for their racism, which has deprived the region of stability for long decades, they should respond to the call for a true peace and return the territories to their owners.

'Arafat Support for U.S. Peace Plan Welcomed

JN2409080791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Sep 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Palestinians Are Contributing To Removing Obstacles From Road to Peace"]

[Text] Now, after the Palestinian president has promised to remove all obstacles to the U.S. peace initiative, and to contribute toward its success, no one can hold the Palestinians responsible for obstructing or foiling the conference. Through their parliament, the Palestinians have proved that they support peace efforts, and that they are concerned about the success of President Bush's initiative.

'Arafat has promised to use his weight to make the U.S. initiative succeed in brining a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on the international legitimacy resolutions and the land for peace principle. In so doing, 'Arafat has put the ball in the U.S. court. The Bush administration, to guarantee the success of its initiative, must exert political and economic pressure on Israel to force it to attend the peace conference, commit itself to the international legitimacy resolutions and Palestinian national rights, particularly their right to self-determination on all the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip territories, including Jerusalem.

When 'Arafat appeals to President Bush, President Gorbachev, the EC, and all the honest peace-loving forces in the world to safeguard the international legitimacy resolutions and respect peoples' rights to self-determination, including the Palestinian people's rights, he places the entire international community before its historic responsibility for eliminating the causes of regional wars and conflicts that threaten world peace and security. He also brings the international community face to face with committing Israel to respect and implement the international legitimacy resolutions. Otherwise, justice, human, and peoples' rights, which Bush and Gorbachev promised would be the basis of the new world order, will be sheer imagination.

By announcing the Palestinian support for the U.S. initiative, 'Arafat has taken his natural position within the frontline that will participate in the peace conference. This requires immediate Arab and Palestinian action to coordinate among these Arab parties and adopt a unified Arab position toward all that will be discussed at the peace negotiations.

AFP Reports British Hostage Mann Released

NC2409174491 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept 24 (AFP)—Briton Jack Mann, 77, was freed and handed over to Syrian officials in Beirut on Tuesday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The former Royal Air Force pilot, kidnapped May 12, 1989, had been held by the pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organization.

Amal's al-Musawi Says Further Releases Possible

NC2409184091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, said he expects a U.S. hostage to be released within a week, a month, or sooner. Mann's release proves the desire to facilitate UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's mission, he said. He asked other parties to facilitate this mission in return.

Husayn al-Musawi said that detainees and hostages will continue to be released on all sides if matters proceed as they are going now. Regarding the two Israeli POW's in Hizballah's hands, al-Musawi said that Israel has been informed that one of them is dead and the other one might be as well.

U.S. Hostage Release 'Soon'

NC2509094291 Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Ba'alabakk, Lebanon, Sept 25 (AFP)—A senior Shiite fundamentalist leader predicted Wednesday that a U.S. captive would be freed soon to maintain the pace of U.N. efforts to secure an overall resolution to the hostage question.

Shaykh Husayn al-Musawi also said a second Israeli soldier captured by pro-Iranian Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, Yosef Fink, "is probably dead" and that the International Committee of the Red Cross "will soon have access to complete information" on his fate.

Israel has been demanding information on its missing servicemen in Lebanon in exchange for the release of its Shiite prisoners, whose freedom is being sought by Lebanese hostage-takers.

"An American hostage will probably be freed soon, following the release of Jack Mann," al-Musawi said in a press statement here. [passage omitted]

Another Release 'Within Hours'

NC2509095791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpts] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], told our radio that there has been no intention to release the detainees held by Israel or the SLA, pending the outcome of the negotiations currently underway. He did, however, express his hope for a solution to the issue of the foreign hostages and the detainees shortly. He expressed his readiness to launch any initiative as his part to facilitate the solution. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Islamic Amal Movement Leader Husayn al-Musawi today confirmed reports from Tehran about the imminent release of a U.S. hostage, noting that this aims to facilitate the UN secretary general's mission.

Yesterday evening, the TEHRAN TIMES reported that a U.S. hostage would be released this weekend, without identifying him. Today, however, the paper indicated that it is expecting another Western hostage to be released within hours. Citing reliable sources in southern Lebanon, the paper said one of the two hostages released will be British and the other will be American.

Buwayz: Government To Seek 'U.S. Guarantees'

NC2509082491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced that U.S. President George Bush agreed to help rebuild Lebanon and said that he will refer the issue to the Senate. Buwayz said the government will secure written U.S. guarantees on independence and sovereignty through working sessions with Ambassador John Kelly. In a statement to our radio, Buwayz added that Bush and Kelly have endorsed the literal content of Resolution 425.

Al-Hirawi Speaks at UN General Assembly 24 Sep

NC2409185991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1419 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to the 46th session of the UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Text] Mr. President: This time Lebanon is addressing your organization after having survived devastating wars and fierce crises, thanks to the Lebanese people's loyalty to their homeland, their unified will, the backing of brothers and friends, and the support of your organization and its defense of Lebanon's right to sovereignty, independence, and peace.

Allow me to offer you my congratulations for your election as president of the 46th session, particularly since you represent the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We are bound to Saudi Arabia by the strongest ties of friendship, amity, and fraternity. Lebanon was and still is grateful for what Saudi Arabia has done and continues to do under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in terms of generous support and backing for the march of peace and salvation. Let me also note the successful presidency of your predecessor in chairing the UN General Assembly's previous session. Let me express my appreciation for his excellency, the secretary general, for

the sincere attention he has given Lebanon and for the distinguished role that the international organization has played in consolidating international solidarity under his leadership. It also pleases me to welcome the new states that have joined the United Nations.

Mr. President, I affirm to you today that Lebanon has emerged from biased and imposed wars and has started to regain confidence in itself and has restored its presence and role in the world. Our commitment to implementing the National Accord Document, both in letter and spirit, has enabled our central government, in only few months, to stabilize the state's authority. Thus, movement among all areas was secured, the country regained its unity, the citizens rallied around their state, and the militias were disbanded and their weapons were disabled after the state had removed the causes of war. Thus, only the Lebanese state's weapons remain in existence. The Lebanese Army and legitimate security forces have been deployed in the capital and other areas and reached as far as our steadfast south to assume, along with UN troops to whom we are grateful for their sacrifices, the task of extending national sovereignty there. We have rehabilitated the state institutions in preparation for reorganizing them to meet urgent needs, and revive the national political activity on the basis of democracy and respect for all beliefs within the framework of the supremacy of law and public safety. We have undertaken reforms and introduced constitutional amendments that are more responsive to the principles of freedom, justice, and power-sharing.

The world today is pursuing the policy of establishing major blocs, cooperation, and union—like Europe 1992, the Organization of American States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union—and the Lebanese have deep rooted qualifications of openness. The treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination was ratified between Lebanon and Syria on the basis of mutual respect for independence of each country. Within this context, Lebanon must praise the enormous sacrifices President Hafiz al-Asad has made to help us in pushing the accord process forward and his support for the state's authority.

Mr. President, those were some of the achievements that have moved Lebanon from despair to hope, from anarchy to order, and from fragmentation to amity. Our people are people of peace and construction, who naturally aspire for agreement within the framework of democracy and respect for liberties.

The state in Lebanon has risen and Lebanon is again enjoying security and stability. We are still working to eliminate the crises that have existed in our land, including the hostages crisis, which is the result of insecurity and years of a lack of legitimate Lebanese authority in some areas. Hostage-taking runs counter to Lebanese customs and traditions and to the basic principles of law and human rights, so much so that Lebanon itself became the hostage to this issue and its international ramifications. The Lebanese Government will cooperate with everybody to put an end to this issue. The government has already proved this when it confronted those who stood to lose from a solution.

Mr. President, the Government of Lebanon has achieved most of the clauses of the national accord document—the document which the Lebanese unanimously adopted in al-Ta'if with the support of the Arab League and the brothers, in the forefront of whom were the members of the Tripartite Arab Committee, as well as with the support of all our friends. The document also won international support, especially that of the permanent members of the UN security Council. What remains to be implemented from this document, however, is the establishment of the state's sovereignty over South Lebanon by the state's intrinsic forces in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425. This resolution preserves Lebanon's right vis-a-vis Israel's invasion of parts of the south and western al- Biqa', as a result of which you sent the UN Interim Forces to ensure the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces to beyond our internationally recognized borders and the restoration of the Lebanese state's authority to that area.

It is not strange for us to demand the implementation of Resolution 425 and to insist on separating the South Lebanon issue from the Middle East issue. We will abide by any decision which the brothers unanimously adopt. We will likewise facilitate every international effort to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution in the Middle East.

We are seeking our rights. Our sons in the south are suffering the yoke of Israeli occupation and are constantly subjected to direct acts of aggression that threaten their lives, property, and basic human rights. The price of war and tragedy which we have paid on behalf of others is sufficient. Lebanon is a homeland of coexistence. Lebanon's peace is a peace for all.

Every people have a sacred right to their land. Our Lebanese territory is sacred to us because the composite and varied makeup of the Lebanese people—something with which Lebanon proudly faces the world—is deeply rooted in the Lebanese soil and joined by indissoluble bonds in the south, north, east, and west.

The process of peace on which we have embarked will remain incomplete unless the Israeli forces carry out a total and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon, which clings to its accomplished independence and full sovereignty.

How is it possible to accept that your organization would implement UN Security Council resolutions against a country in the Middle East which defied UN resolutions but would refrain from implementing a UN resolution that safeguards Lebanon's interest? Lebanon has never committed an aggression; Israel, on the other hand, has continued to defy this resolution for 13 years by keeping its Army stationed in a part of our dear territory. A positive response by your organization to Lebanon's request will fulfill its commitments to my country and

will enshrine the sacred nature of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly as the United Nations asked Lebanon in 1989 to proceed with the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. The agreement explicitly requires that this resolution be implemented.

Lebanon, a founding member of the United Nations and a participant in formulating its Human Rights Charter, has faith in international legitimacy and wants to abide by its commitment to its principles and charters.

Mr. President, the serious Middle East situation continues to be a threat to international peace and security. The Palestinians who are living on their own land are suffering from arbitrary practices in addition to the massive Jewish immigration directed by Israel, and Israel's procrastination in facilitating a solution to the Palestinian problem and in giving the Palestinians the right to self-determination. Indeed, Israel's refusal to give the peace efforts a natural chance, despite the courageous Arab openness, makes it wrong to believe that a permanent, just, and comprehensive peace can be established on injustice and suppression.

Lebanon, which has suffered a great deal from the Arab-Isareli conflict in general and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in particular, is concerned about finding a comprehensive, lasting, and just settlement in the Middle East region. The Lebanese model that is based on diversification, dialogue, and openness constitutes an example for creative coexistence in the region.

Mr. President, with the entrenchment of security, the restoration of confidence in Lebanon is an incentive for Lebanese emigrants to return to their motherland. We look forward to the support of the brothers and friends for our development plans. Peace cannot be established without development that ensures the dignity of human beings and his harmony with other human beings. The bloody events in Lebanon have destroyed the vital utilities and harmed the economic sectors and the infrastructure of production. The state's treasury is burdened with debts, and for the past 15 years basic sources of national revenue, such as tourism and services, have receded. The regional crises, the last being the Gulf war, have also hurt Lebanon. This is why the Lebanese Government is facing major challenges on all levels, but it is determined to restore things to normal, prompted by our confidence in Lebanon's free economy on which we depend in the process of development and the restoration of prosperity. We also depend on the effective role of Lebanese businessmen at home and abroad. We are confident that your organization and other international organizations will respond to Lebanon's needs.

We are in the process of charting the first steps for the development of all Lebanon, beginning with the reconstruction of our capital, Beirut, and actions to return the displaced persons to their homes, properties, and villages. Beirut, the Middle East's cultural and commercial center, calls on Arab capital and international investors to return to Lebanon to contribute to its reconstruction. Lebanon has received aid from some brothers and organizations, but it looks forward to the establishment of the international fund for the development of Lebanon. It also looks forward to your contribution and that of the international industrial organizations in this fund.

If the world sometimes seemed to be watching while my country stumbled into crises for 15 years, what sense would it make for the world to remain watching Lebanon while it is facing the challenges of reconstruction? Lebanon's decision to end the state of war and to confront its repercussions is proof of its ability for revival and creativity. The Lebanese, who contributed in the development of the two Americas, Africa, Europe, the Gulf, and Australia, deserves your assistance in the march of reconstruction. The international community has never failed to secure assistance to war-stricken countries. Are not solidarity with the afflicted countries and support for their survival among the basic reasons for the establishment of your organizations and in the forefront of its goals?

Mr. President, Lebanon looks forward to witnessing a new political era on the eve of the 21st century in which there is more cooperation to promote human progress on the basis of fraternity and respect for the others' rights for freedom, safety, and prosperity. Peace gives Lebanon a distinguished cultural status in its region and the world and it is in the interest of its brothers and world peace in general. In all circumstances, Lebanon will continue the struggle for freedom, development, and peace with unflagging determination. The only way for a prosperous future in the region is through cooperation within a new order the features of which have taken shape in the form of the courageous Arab resolutions. This order stems from the roots of our culture, which is marked by understanding, diversity, and freedom, and it reflects everybody's acknowledgement of the need to build the future according to the values of stability, freedom, and dignity. The recent strategic arms limitation agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union represent an important step toward freeing humans from nuclear horrors. We hope this course will be further developed to cover both the chemical and biological weapons and to turn the Middle East into a region free of weapons of mass destruction. The tendency to solve regional problems through understanding and open-mindedness in various parts of the world, a tendency that has been crowned with success in a number of cases, confirms the unanimous support for these efforts and consolidates trust in the UN increasing role in finding appropriate frameworks and mechanism for normalizing the circumstances that had proved difficult to resolve for long years. Here, Lebanon would like to stress its determination throughout the nineties to seek more cooperation among nations in various spheres and fields.

Mr. President, after 15 years of constant death, my homeland has not died. It is emerging with more determination for survival. It stands out in history as evidence of the will of life, carrying the message of tolerance and togetherness and underlining the fact that the term

Lebanonization is a source of pride for Lebanon and the world. Lebanonization is not a synonym for violence and fighting, but one for development, creativity, and integration. Thank you. [applause]

Israelis Bomb Villages; Planes Overfly Beirut

NC2409112591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces in the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah hills bombarded the towns of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr with mortar and heavy machine gun fire at 0700 today, causing heavy damage to property and crops. The Israeli forces have been working on a new military road between the towns of al-Qantarah and Bani Hayyan since yesterday evening.

Israeli warplanes flew over Lebanon and broke the sound barrier over Beirut at approximately 1300 today, causing a sonic boom that reverberated throughout the city.

'Lebanese Forces Party' Announces Formation

NC2409114891 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Sep 91 p 10

[Text] A political figure has noticed that Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah seemed relieved that an announcement ['ilm wa khabar] has been made about the licensing of the Lebanese Forces Party. The source remarked that the Lebanese Forces' announcement forming a political party would result in their separation from the Phalangist Party and would subsequently reduce the competition over the Phalangist Party's leadership between those who support the Lebanese Forces within the party and those who support Dr. Sa'adah. Earlier reports had mentioned that Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' might seek the chairmanship of the Phalangist Party after Sa'adah's term ended.

The announcement of the Lebanese Forces Party's establishment appeared two days before the Lebanese Forces rally in Harisa. Sources close to the Lebanese Forces said that the timing was merely a coincidence and that the announcement was supposed to have been issued earlier, but it was held up until last week by a controversy over the party name.

The controversy centered on whether the party should be named the Lebanese Forces Party or the Lebanese Resistance Party. The dispute was settled in favor of the Lebanese Forces Party, and the announcement was issued accordingly.

Hostage Mann Handed Over to British Ambassador

JN2509051791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus—In the presence of Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, British Hostage Jack Mann was handed over to British Ambassador in Damascus Andrew Green as soon as the hostage arrived in Damascus. The handover, which was attended by a large number of Arab and non-Arab news agency and television correspondents, took place at the Foreign Ministry at 2330 yesterday.

Mr. Qaddur said the release of a new Western hostage today, British national Jack Mann, is part of the process to close the dossier of kidnapping. At the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad, he said, Syria has sought to end this problem by all means and at at all levels. He added: In our firm view toward this issue, making yet another step toward a final solution to the hostage problem is a human, civilized, and political achievement. While Syria congratulates Mann's family, it wholeheartedly hopes that the remaining hostages will soon be released.

Mr. Qaddur added: As all know, we have all along tried to release the hostages for humanitarian reasons. Our efforts have once again borne fruit. We will continue these efforts so that all hostages can return to their families.

The British ambassador in Damascus thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for Syria's efforts to ensure the release of the British hostage. He also thanked the Lebanese and Iranian governments for their help. He extended special greetings to the UN secretary general for his role in this issue. The British ambassador said: We are looking forward to the release of all other hostages and their return to their families. We and the Syrian Government will diligently work to achieve this.

The British hostage Mann then spoke to journalists, expressing gratitude for efforts made to release him.

In London, British Prime Minister John Major last night expressed thanks and gratitude for Syria's efforts to obtain the release of Jack Mann. He said he was very happy for the release of Mann, and he thanked all those who helped obtain the release the British hostage.

For his part, U.S. President George Bush yesterday said he was glad for the release of Mann in Lebanon. AFP cited President Bush as saying during a meeting with Norwegian prime minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session: I hope that the release of Mann will not be the end of the hostage release process.

Full End To Settlement 'Imperative' for Peace

JN2509104691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus, 25 Sep (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that a full halt to Zionist settlement in the occupied Arab territories is an imperative condition to bring about peace in the region.

In a comment in its today's issue, the paper notes Israel's continued settlement policy and confiscation of Arab land despite international warnings against this policy and its risks to a peaceful settlement in the region. As evidence, the paper refers to the Israeli war minister's statement that he prefers giving up the loan guarantees request to suspending settlement activity.

This, says the paper, shows once again that Israel and its leaders will not stop their settlement program, and will give this matter precedence over any other subject, no matter how important or serious, and even if it concerns the achievement of peace. Concluding, the paper says Israel views the region's conflict from a certain perspective: continuing and consolidating the settlement activity, in defiance of world conventions and international resolutions, which suggest that the continuation of settlement and the achievement of peace cannot be reconciled.

President al-Asad Receives Sudanese Delegation

JN2309152991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] At noon today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, member of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, and minister of transport, communication, and tourism; and Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the Sudanese Presidential Office.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Transportation Yusuf al-Ahmad, and Sudanese Ambassador in Damascus 'Isam Abu-Judayrah.

Col. Karrar passed to the president a letter from Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The president asked him to carry a letter in reply. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and in the Horn of Africa, and relations.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Statement on Border Tensions

LD2409201291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Statement by the Foreign Ministry in Kabul; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan has expressed resolute support for the five-point statement of the UN secretary general and for the recent U.S.-USSR declaration. We expressed support for participation in any other action that causes the consolidation of peace in the war-torn land of the Afghans through putting forward constructive and realistic initiatives. We should, however, say with regret that opposition groups and their Pakistani backers have not only refrained from openly declaring their position regarding these statements, but have intensified their military activity in Afghanistan, especially in provinces bordering Pakistan.

Information indicates that the opposition groups, directly cooperating with the Pakistani Army, increased the transfer of weapons and ammunition to the Republic of Afghanistan and intensified their attacks on a number of border provinces. All these activities are being carried out at a time when extensive diplomatic activity is going on toward the commencement of an intra-Afghan dialogue and the immediate cessation of war in Afghanistan.

These activities, which are being carried out in complete contradiction to international intentions concerning the cessation of war in Afghanistan and in open contravention of the UN secretary general's five-point statement and the agreements of the two big powers, illustrate the indifference by the opposition groups and of their Pakistani backers to these statements and to international inclinations regarding the cessation of war in Afghanistan.

The Government of Afghanistan strongly demands the cessation of such activities. The opposition groups and their Pakistani backers should think with sound minds, instead of intensifying military operations. These military operations result in nothing else, but the killing of our innocent people and the destruction of our country. The operations yield nothing, but murder and destruction. The opposition groups should assist in the process of peace and the immediate successful cessation of war by taking a constructive and realistic stand.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan asks the United Nations, the international community, and the great powers to make Pakistan refrain from intensifying the war in Afghanistan by exerting pressure. Pakistan should be urged to discontinue the encouragement of the opposition groups and to discontinue the increase in the transfer of weapons to the Republic of Afghanistan and the war activities.

The Government of Afghanistan truly and consistently supports a political solution of the question of Afghanistan and does not spare any efforts toward putting an end to war in the country. The Government of Afghanistan is taking all necessary measures in the interest of maintaining peace in the country and toward the legitimate defense of its independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Prisoners Charged With Security Offenses Pardoned

LD2009183191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, has pardoned the remaining prison terms of a number of criminal prisoners of the center and provinces of the country and the remaining prison terms of a number of prisoners convicted of crimes against the internal and external state security of the Republic of Afghanistan as a result of appeals made by their families and for humanitarian reasons. This was on the occasion of the sacred birth anniversary of the master of the universe, Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be upon him and his family.

The Presidential Press Office stated the above points, adding that the decrees concerning the release of the prisoners have been issued to the relevant sources.

Further on Release Decree

LD2109185291 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0538 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sept 19, BAKHTAR—The decree of President Najibollah on pardoning some prisoners of the opposition on the auspicious birth day of prophet Muhammad was released in Kabul today, the presidential press office reports.

The pardons are in honor of the auspicious birth anniversary of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, peace be with him, and the materialisation of the policy of national reconciliation as well as manifesting the goodwill of the Government of Afghanistan towards the UN peace plan and joint USSR-USA statement. The remaining imprisonment terms of the opposition groupings of those prisoners, who have been accused for their hostile activities against the Government of Afghanistan, for their participation in the opposition groupings, and in the case of the elapse of one year from their imprisonment term, are pardoned.

As per Article No. 1 of this decree, the imprisonment terms of those prisoners, who are condemned up to September 20, 1991 by court verdict for their crime against the foreign and domestic security of the country and who have one year of their imprisonment term already elapsed, are pardoned.

This article is also in force in the case of those who have been condemned for crimes against foreign and domestic security of the country up to September 20, 1991. [sentence as received]

Of the prisoners released on the basis of Article One of this decree, if they are bound to other indemnities in addition to their prison sentence, their indemnities can be obtained on installments, it says.

The provisions of this decree are not binding on those prisoners who are sentenced for assassination, explosions, and espionage activities.

With the promulgation of this decree, which has been taken as a [sign of] goodwill and understanding among Afghans, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan expects that the opponents should consider it as a positive gesture and should reciprocate with a similar gesture of goodwill in regard to the prisoners held by them, especially in case of Khowst incident. In case of positive reaction by the opponents, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is prepared to take further steps for the release of those prisoners who are sentenced for crimes against domestic and foreign security.

Rebels Renew Amnesty Offer to Kabul Forces

BK2409142291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 24 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance Tuesday renewed its offer of a general amnesty to Kabul government soldiers and civil servants as long as they give themselves up immediately. The offer came amid fresh indications that more rebel offensives are in the offing in Afghanistan's long-running conflict.

Since last week, artillery duels have take place around Gardeyz, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of the Afghan capital, both sides in the war have said. On Monday the garrison town was the target of rocket attacks, which Radio Kabul said left at least five people dead and 15 wounded.

Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas based in Pakistan said that an attack on Gardeyz or other Afghan cities such as Jalalabad and Faizabad is imminent, but there has been no independent confirmation of this.

On Tuesday mojahedin leaders met in this city on the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier, after which the fresh amnesty offer was announced.

"All forces in the regime (army, police, militia and civil servants) should take advantage of this general amnesty and turn themselves in immediately to their nearest mojahedin headquarters," said the offer, made public by the Sunni guerrilla news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN].

Orders have been given to safeguard the lives and property of defecters and their families, the offer said, adding that a mood of "crisis and despair" dogs President Najibollah's government.

The amnesty offer came 10 days after Moscow and Washington agreed to halt deliveries of weapons to warring Afghan factions from New Year's Day, 1992. An Afghan guerrilla delegation was to go this week to New York for fresh talks on the conflict along the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. A trip to Moscow is also expected, at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

For the time being, three moderate leaders, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, Sayyed Gaylani and Nabi Mohammedi, have announced their intention to go to New York to pursue the drafting of a transitional mechanism in Kabul pending general elections. Such a mechanism was proposed May 21 by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

A representative of Hezb-e-Wahdat, an alliance of Shiite Afghan groups based in Tehran, is also to go to New York.

Three fundamentalist Sunni factions based in Pakistan, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Rasul Sayyaf and Yunus Khales, have distanced themselves from the U.N. peace initiative and are to boycott the New York and Moscow trips.

Finally, the Jamiat has indicated that its leader Burhanuddin Rabbani will not personally join the delegation, although he will send a delegate.

House Resolution on UN Plan, Developments

LD2309090191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Resolution issued by the Afghan Meli Shura House of Representatives in Kabul on 22 September]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is now 13 years since the tragedy of war first hit our country. [passage omitted]

The House of Representatives of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, understanding the unfortunate and heart-breaking results of the war, considers it a great national tragedy and invites its dear compatriots and Islamic and international freinds to campaign against this great tragedy.

The people's representatives in the House of Representatives took into account the fact that the recent national and international developments in connection with the issue of Afghanistan created an unprecedented great opportunity and possibilities for the peaceful and political solution of the issue of Afghanistan, for ensuring peace, and for preventing war and bloodshed in our country. The representatives discussed the search for ways to ensure peace and to end war and bloodshed

among Afghans at the general sessions of the House of Representatives on 19, 24, 25, 26, and 31 Sonbola 1370 [corresponding to 10, 15, 16, 17, and 22 September 1991] [passage omitted]

The House of Representatives of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, consisting of the credible and elected representatives of a large section of the people of the country, taking into account the above mentioned national and international developments on Afghanistan, and by paying attention to its Islamic, humanitarian, and Afghan mission and duty, and as a result of lengthy discussions of the representatives, approves the following:

1. The House of Representatives again approves the UN Secretary General's five-point plan on Afghanistan, which fully conforms with the principles of the policy of national reconciliation and which is considered to be a logical basis for a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan. The House asks UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to accelerate the process which is already underway.

The House invites Benon Sevan, deputy UN secretary general and special envoy, to attend a session of the House of Representatives on his next visit to Kabul in order to be presented with the House's plan, to exchange views on this matter, and to convey the proposals of the representatives of nations to the UN secretary general.

2. Taking into account the present economic problems in the country and the grave impact of the continuation of war in Afghanistan, it is demanded that the United Nations should make efforts for securing economic aid and the supply of foodstuffs and other primary goods of necessity.

3. Because under the U.S.-Soviet declaration the ending of weapons supplies is to start from 1 January 1992 and the announcement of a cease-fire is expected after that date, the House requests the United Nations to declare an immediate cease-fire between the opposing sides in order to prevent an intensification of combat operations and further deaths of the people of Afghanistan, and to embark on its introduction through involved countries.

4. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is assigned to put forward the issue of the cessation of weapons supplies to the sides involved in the Afghan problem to the UN Security Council in order that it shall be resolved so that all sources supplying weapons to the warring sides in Aghanistan shall cease the supply of weapons to them. And taking into account the cessation of weapons supplies and the withdrawal of major weapons systems from the Republic of Afghanistan, the territorial integrity, independence, and national sovereignty of Afghanistan shall be guaranteed by the UN Security Council.

5. The House of Representatives' International Relations Commission is assigned to provide the opportunity for delegations of the House to travel to Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, India, China, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, and central Asian republics of the Soviet Union through the relevant authorities. Invitations shall be sent for parliamentary delegations of the aforementioned countries and of the U.S. Senate to visit Afghanistan. The commission is also assigned to use the facilities of the Interparliamentary Union and other parliamentary institutions in the interest of restoring peace in the country.

6. Those deputies who are able to should travel to Europe, the United States, and other countries to establish contacts and to hold talks with Afghan national personalities.

7. Those deputies who are able to should establish contacts and relations with the commanders of the armed opposition, provided they volunteer to begin negotiations with them. The government shall provide them with everything necessary to enable them to undertake their tasks effectively.

8. Emphasizing the fact that the determining factor in resolving the Afghan problem is the Afghan people themselves, the House of Representatives of Afghanistan asks the people of Afghanistan to adopt a responsible and patriotic attitude toward their people and homeland and to make efforts to restore peace for their own and their children's lives and prosperity. The House asks all heads of formations, internal commanders, mujahedin, refugees, ulema, clergy, national, and social personalities living inside the country and abroad and all compatriots to send their proposals and views on ways of ensuring peace in our beloved country, Afghanistan, to the House of Representatives. Success comes from God.

[Signed] The House of Representatives of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan

India

Leaders, Delegation Attend Commonwealth Session

Venkataraman, Rao Speak 23 Sep

BK2309100491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has warned that the very preservation of mankind will be in jeopardy unless appropriate measures are taken to remove economic disparities and tackle ecological degradation. Inaugurating the 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in the historic Central Hall of Parliament today, he said we are living in a chaotic universe of competing social, economic, and political forces. Their struggle for power and influence still dominate global affairs. He said the recent treaty between the United States and the USSR to reduce strategic nuclear arsenal is welcome. There is still immense scope for further reduction of expenditure on armaments. Mr. Venkataraman also welcomed the developments in South Africa

as encouraging and said that much remains to be done for restoration of basic political rights to the people there. The president said the parliamentary system is peculiar inspite of its deficiencies as it enables the people to ventilate their grievances through the mechanism of free discussion. He said parliamentarians should enter the portals of legislatures to give and not to take. Concluding his speech, Mr. Venkataraman said that they should be like glow-worms which shed light but not heat.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in his address lauded the profound international change which has reduced the danger of a catastrophic nuclear war. However, he said there is need to bring in a new international order based on the principles of democracy, which the Commonwealth countries approved so seriously. Referring to the problems of environment, drug trafficking, terrorism, and poverty, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the problems can be solved only through genuine international cooperation.

In his welcome address, the speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Shiv Raj Patil, who is also the president of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, said the problems confronting the world cannot be solved by the efforts of individual countries alone. But, he said, they can be tackled if a common strategy is evolved with all joining hands. For this all those in the Commonwealth should live up to the twin ideals of consultation and cooperation.

The vice president of the association, Mr. Darrel Rolle, of the Bahamas, who also spoke, recalled the role played by the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in strengthening the Commonwealth.

Among the dignitaries present at the function were the former presidents Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy and Giani Zail Singh, former Vice President B.D. Jatti and Mr. M. Hidayatullah, and veteran parliamentarians.

The six-day conference will discuss several global issues, including South Africa, UN collective security, violence against women and children, global refugees problems and environment. The delegates will also exchange views on parliamentary practices in various Commonwealth countries.

Relaxation of Iraq Sanctions Suggested

BK2309161591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] New Delhi has suggested relaxing strict sanctions against Iraq to meet the food and medicine requirements of its suffering innocent people. The suggestion was made by the leader of the Indian delegation, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, at the first plenary session of the Commonwealth parliamentary conference in New Delhi today. He said the UN role has been enhanced by the reversal of Iraqi aggression. It showed that the world will not accept aggression. However, he said, there is a humanitarian aspect of the crisis which caused loss of lives and sufferings in both Iraq and Kuwait. Mr. Azad said that India adhered to these sanctions at a considerable cost and had to face serious economic problems. He said the United Nations should consider the unintended consequences of sanctions, particularly the adverse effects on the Third World before imposing them.

Before the beginning of the plenary session, the secretary general of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoko, emphasized the need to protect democracy and promote human rights. He said without a free and fair electoral process, no government can have legitimacy. Chief Anyaoko deplored the recent steps taken by the developed countries discriminating against overseas students.

The delegates, who spoke on the plenary session, highlighted the role of the UN in providing collective security. The session discussed implementation of UN resolutions and the Gulf crisis with a special reference to Commonwealth countries.

Commentary on New Strategic, Economic U.S. Ties

BK2409120891 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Commentary by Sanjiv Prakash, editor of ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL]

[Text] Any possible hurdle in the way of U.S. aid and technical assistance to India has now been cleared as the amendment to the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act for 1991-92 moved by Senator Larry Pressler has been dropped. This move, which follows a meeting of a Conference Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in Washington on September 17th, comes at a time when India's trade and economic ties with the United States are headed toward a new plateau.

In my meeting in Washington with leading U.S. legislators and officials, all of them were of the opinion that the Pressler Amendment was unfair to India and it has to be removed. Senior U.S. officials even went to the extent of saying that even if the amendment is cleared by the Senate, President George Bush would veto it. The White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said that the Pressler Amendment, which is named after its sponsor Senator Larry Pressler, stipulates that Pakistan can receive U.S. aid only if the U.S. President certifies to the U.S. Congress that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear weapons program. The U.S. President must also certify that aid to Pakistan will be reduced significantly [words indistinct] that Pakistan will possess a nuclear explosive device. It was under the Pressler Amendmenmt that the U.S. President failed to ceritify to Congress on 1 October 1990, that Pakistan does not possess nuclear weapons program. The result—U.S. aid to Pakistan has been suspended since October 1990. However, early in 1991, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted the Pressler Amendment for the Foreign Assistance Act and made it applicable for India.

This measure was introduced by two congressmen—Mr. Lagomarsino and Mr. Charles Wilson. The Bush administration lobbied extensively against it. Senior U.S. officials spoke with all leading U.S. senators, including Senators Daniel Moynihan, Teddy Kennedy, and Claiborne Pell. The senators made it known that they were not for equating India with Pakistan and sent a vote to the Senate conference to kill the amendment. The spokesman for the Congress, Stephen Solarz, said that the entire legislative branch of the U.S. Government was aware that Pakistan had already advanced nuclear weapons-oriented program. It was calling upon the Senate House Conference Committee to remove India from the Pressler Amendment. This was also confirmed by Mr. (Dan Honor), acting director of Nuclear Control, a Washington-based think tank and lobbying group, who said that there is a concensus among the nuclear regulatory bodies in the United States that uranium in Pakistan has been enriched to weapons grade.

The dropping of India from the Pressler Amendment comes at an opportune time for India and the United States. The U.S. is closely watching the economic reforms taking shape in India and several U.S. corporate giants are stepping in to do business with India. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, there is a great deal of enthusiasm in the United States in doing business in India. U.S. officials predict that by the end of 1991, at least 500 companies will be setting up shop in India. India's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Abid Hussain, said the key is to translate the political goodwill into trade and economic gains for India.

In keeping with these goals, India's diplomacy in the United States is undergoing a shift in approach and to an extent in style and substance. Dr. Abid Hussain is emphasizing the economic aspects of the relationship. We hope to get the top U.S. companies to manufacture in India. Dr. Hussain said we are pushing the fact that India has skilled labor, a vast infrastructure and a government which is business-oriented. At a strategic level, it is clear in Washington that the United States sees India as the dominant power of the South Asian region. This process has been escalated by the changes in the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war. Unlike earlier years, India and Pakistan are not placed on the same political plane as far as the administration is concerened. The crystallized strategic perception sees India as the major economic and political power with which Washington is keen to forge close ties.

India's two-way trade with the United States now totals $6 billion a year and it is widely anticipated in Washington that in the next two or three years, this figure will cross the $10 billion a year mark. It is within this backdrop of redefined strategic and economic ties between India and the United States that the Pressler Amendment was considered an anomaly, an exception and not a rule.

Kashmir Militants Free 6 Kidnapped Policemen

BK2409130891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, held talks with the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, in Srinagar today. High ranking officials of the state also participated in the discussion on the deteriorating law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley. Later, the home minister visited some border areas of the state. Talking to senior officials, Mr. Chavan stressed the need for involving local people in the planning and developmental activities in the border state. He expressed concern over the recent incidents of kidnapping in the valley.

Meanwhile, militants have freed six kidnapped state police constables after 11 days of captivity. According to official sources in Srinagar, efforts are continuing to get the release of the other hostages.

Chavan on Readiness To Meet Kashmir Militants

BK2409161291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said the government is prepared to a dialogue with Kashmiri militants, if they come to the negotiating table. Addressing a news conference in Srinagar this evening, he said that the Kashmir problem is on the top priority list of the center and government wants to solve the problem as early as possible. Mr. Chavan said that the problem has to be dealt with at the administrative as well as the political level. Regarding kidnappings, the home minister hoped that the militants will relase the hostages without any harm.

On the alleged excesses by the security personnel, Mr. Chavan said that all these cases will be thoroughly investigated and those found guilty will be punished. Regarding the release of political leaders, he said that if there are no specific charges against them, their cases will be considered sympathetically.

Mr. Chavan said that the recent clashes on the line of actual control are meant to provoke our forces but he said that it is the policy of the government of India to have friendly relations with its neighbors. The home minister said that although Pakistan has denied helping the militants, there is ample evidence for this.

The home minister said that advisory committees at state and district levels will be set up soon. These committees will help the administration to solve the problems of the people.

The state governor, Mr. Girish Chandras Saxena, who was present at the news conference said that over 2,000 Pakistan-trained militants and 1,200 others have been arrested so far.

Meanwhile, militants have freed six kidnapped state police constables after 11 days of captivity. According to official sources in Srinagar, efforts are continuing to get the release of the other hostages.

Hints at 'Security Zone'

BK2509090491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that the government will do everything to ensure early return of Kashmiri migrants to their homes in the Kashmir Valley. Addressing the migrants in their camps in Laghota and Muthi area near Jammu today, he said the government will even consider creation of a security zone in the valley if sufficient numbers of migrants are prepared to return. He said people in Kashmir Valley yesterday told him that they would welcome back the migrants.

Eight 'Militants' Killed in Punjab

BK2509090291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] In Punjab, eight militants, including three hardcore ones, have been killed in an encounter lasting over 60 hours in Nazira area of Ferozepur District. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that the killed included Jaspal Singh Bhure, Bhuta Singh, and Harjinder Singh, who were responsible for a number of killings in the state. In another encounter in Amritsar District, a hardcore militant was killed while his accomplice committed suicide.

Scheduled Akali Factions Rally Not Held 24 Sep

BK2409164691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] In Punjab, the proposed rally called by the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak—Sikh Temple Management—Committee] and some Akali factions against alleged state repression could not be held in Ludhiana today.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the organizers did not agree with the district administration's request to hold the rally at a place other than the one proposed by them in view of the acute traffic congestion in the area. So, the district administration did not allow the holding of the rally at the proposed site. Following this, about five to six hundred people sit in dharna [sit in strike] at different places in the city en route to the site. In the evening, the dharna (?was lifted). The spokesman said no untoward incident has been reported.

Former Pakistani Premier Jatoi Meets Rao 24 Sep

BK2409131091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The former Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi this morning. The 50-minute meeting focused on bilateral matters with both leaders expressing the desire for lasting solution to the outstanding issues.

Later, addressing a press conference, Mr. Jatoi said the Harare CHOGM [Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] meeting next month will provide an opportunity to the leaders of both countries to begin a meaningful dialogue on the contentious issues.

Cabinet Approves Package on Job Reservation

BK2409162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The union cabinet met this evening and approved a package of reservation in jobs to the socially and educationally backward classes and others. The package was earlier discussed by the Congress-I working committee at its meeting in New Delhi. The cabinet has (?cleared) stand to be taken on the reservation issue in the Supreme Court when it resumes hearing the case on Tuesday next.

Our correspondent understands that the package has the economic criterion woven within it and the poorer sections among the forward classes as well as among the socially and educationally backward classes are to be benefited.

Declining to give details, the official spokesman told newsmen that there will still be a sizeable percentage of jobs left for open competition.

Our correspondent says it is unlikely after the cabinet's approval today that the government will wait till Tuesday next to file an affidavit on its stand in the Supreme Court. It is expected that an affidavit on behalf of the government may be filed in the court much earlier.

Iran

President Assails Bush on 'Racist' Israel

LD2409205491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, received Mr. Harmoko, minister of information of Indonesia, this afternoon. During the meeting the Indonesian minister of information handed over to our country's president a message from Mr. Suharto, president of Indonesia. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: A new issue emerged yesterday, that is, the proposal put forward by the U.S.

President at the UN General Assembly in which he asks the United Nations to rescind a previous resolution calling Israel racist. In our view this proposal provides yet more reasons for America's expanded support for Israel.

The president stressed: The Israeli Zionists are definitely racists; serious moves to gather the Jews from all over the world to replace the Palestinian refugees in the occupied lands is a flagrant signs of the racism—something the United Nations has acknowledged.

Regarding the next meeting of the heads of member states of the Nonaligned Movement in Indonesia, the president said: Regarding the Nonaligned Movement conference which you are to host, it seems that there is need for a new initiative. The title of neutrality which used to have an attraction in the past does not seem right now. We must create attraction for the meeting through correct moves and specific slogans.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani compared the justice-seeking stances of the Islamic Republic with the speech of the U.S. President at the UN General Assembly. He said: The U.S. President yesterday proposed that the previous UN resolution in which Israel was called racist should be annulled. Is it not racist when Israel gathers world Jews and gives them the place of the Palestinian refugees in the occupied territories? The Islamic Republic says that by organizing that very conference in the name of peace, America intends to stabilize that racist regime; the best proof for this claim of ours is what the U.S. President said.

Speech Criticizes Bush Further

LD2409211391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1618 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of the opening ceremony of Tehran University on 24 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] My recommendation to the professors, students and managers is that they safeguard the worth and the dignity of Islamic scholarship in universities. You certainly know and accept that Islam saved our country. The Islamic revolution distinguished us throughout the entire world. Just look at yesterday's proceedings in the United Nations. Yesterday, among the 12 people who spoke there, two of them stood apart: One was the U.S. President who raised a number of issues. The other one was our minister of foreign affairs. Compare the remarks of our minister of foreign affairs with the remarks of the U.S. President. You will see that the only country in the world which has something to say, which speaks on behalf of the people, which speaks of truth, which speaks of justice, which adopts a humane stance regarding the critical issues of the world, with courage, with clarity, with sincerity, is Iran.

What do they say and what do we say? The U.S. President went there, and the high point of his remarks is that he demands that the United Nations rescind the resolution which it passed a few years ago which says that the Israelis are racist—which says that Zionism is a racist movement. Now what benefit has Israel bestowed upon the world that we should come and rescind this only true description which we have provided for it? What else does racism mean in the world? What is South Africa doing which Israel is not doing? Israel is collecting the Jews from all over the world, from Ethiopia, from Sudan, from Yugoslavia, from Albania, from the Soviet Union and from wherever it can find them and takes them there; it kicks out the Palestinians from their homes and settles these people. Now this is the minimum offense of Israel. What else is racism? South Africa does not expel the blacks. It provides the white people with certain concessions. This [Israel] totally eliminates the Palestinian people. The President of the biggest country in the world goes there and says that something which the United Nations passed—and I don't know how such a resolution was passed in the first place—should now be rescinded.

Now, what does the Islamic Republic say there? The Islamic Republic says that by this peace conference—this so-called peace conference—which you are convening, you plan to consolidate that racist [regime]. Fortunately, the remarks of the U.S. President provided a confirmation of this. His remarks are the best proof for our claim. If you were really seeking justice in the peace conference—and Israel has not even acceded to your peace conference—you are first saying that we should rescind the resolution on its racism [sentence as heard].

In any case, I say that the Islamic revolution gave you dignity and worth. It has made you known to the world as a country which stands on its own feet, which acts and talks on the basis of its own understanding and its own judgement. This is the measure of your greatness. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Views Importance of Seminaries' Role

NC2409065991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i delivered a commencement address to the religious seminaries yesterday afternoon in which he called on them to carry out a profound and scholarly review of textbooks, to assess their plans in a correct and organized way, to pay serious attention to the various Islamic sciences, to become acquainted with the world's progress on issues related to Islamic science, and to create various specialized scientific fields. He also pointed to the need to take the issue of refining ethics seriously and to reject vanity in the religious seminaries.

The esteemed leader also pointed to the need to correctly understand religion and jurisprudence and said that explaining this to the people was the basis for jurisprudence. He also called on the religious seminaries to pay attention to the need for becoming acquainted with new

research methodologies, for carefully planning propaganda efforts, for uprooting the idea of separating religion from politics, for avoiding disputes over factional issues and political opinions, and for encouraging the students to think freely, to innovate, and to carry out careful research.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i highlighted the role of the religious seminaries in the preservation and clarification of Islam for various generations and said: The continuation of religion depends on the seminaries' efforts, and, if it had not been for the seminaries' efforts from the very beginning, religion and religious realities definitely would have disappeared. The religious seminaries consistently have strengthened the people's religious beliefs, have directed society's thinking, and have influenced political and social issues at various junctures in history. In the era before the constitutional movement and up to the present era, the religious seminaries' scholars and students played a vital role in bringing about the Islamic Revolution and in creating a society and government which is based on Islam. This phenomenon should be contemplated and studied.

The esteemed leader emphasized the need for practical measures to be taken to use the religious seminaries in their fullest capacity as an immense Islamic resource, and said: The religious seminaries are based on jurisprudence, and, therefore, jurisprudence should be understood as the meaning behind the science of religion, the practical application of religion, and a means for defining individual and social duties using religious resources. Jurisprudence should be deepened daily as a means for understanding principles. We must refrain from taking a shallow approach to problems, as they should be considered in their full global dimensions and should be researched using the various resources and texts on jurisprudence.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution drew the religious seminaries' attention to the various Islamic sciences and said: The preservation of the Koranic verses in the religious seminaries' programs as well as knowing and understanding the Holy Koran as the guide to the science of Koran should be seriously emphasized. There is a great vacuum in the study of man in this respect, and immense research should be carried out in the humanities field. The study of history and philosophy should be expanded in the seminaries, and our students should be aware of philosophical thought throughout the world so that they can always have the necessary preparation to argue against non-Islamic philosophies. Experts in these fields should be trained in the seminaries.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i then discussed the significance of the seminaries' awareness on the progress made in the world today concerning Islamic science. Stressing the need for the religious seminaries to be aware of the new research methods, he stated: The seminaries should take the trend toward specialization seriously. Specialization in the fields of law and jurisprudence, in the various parts of jurisprudence, and in other Islamic sciences should be achieved.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution referred to the need for the religious seminaries to conduct careful planning to clarify the objectives, contents, means, and methods of propaganda. Affirming the need to uproot the idea of separating religion from politics, he said: Religion serves to manage the people's lives, and politics should be fed by religion. The decisions of jurisprudence should be based on the management of a country, a society, and a system. The religious seminaries are at the service of Islam and should define solutions for the problems of the country and of the Islamic system. Significance should be attached to political thought, and religious scholars should maintain clear and lively political thought that conforms with the present intellectual climate.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i called on the religious seminaries to respect the students who have spent much of their time struggling on the fronts or serving the system's institutions. Pointing to the need for the religious seminaries to refrain from getting involved in factional issues and political camps, he said that each of the scholars should plan their activities on the basis of their zeal, capability, and particular position in their scientific and ideological lives.

The esteemed leader also emphasized the need for refining ethics and avoiding vanity in the religious seminaries. Stressing the need for the students to be given favorable conditions for learning in the religious seminaries, he added: The examiners in the religious seminaries should warn the students against becoming involved in marginal issues and should further encourage them to practice research, free thinking, and innovation.

In conclusion, the leader of the Islamic Revolution stressed the need for using new methods in the textbooks used by the religious seminaries, and said it would be useful and significant to assign committees to write new textbooks and material and to carry out comparative jurisprudence in the religious seminaries.

Nepal & Bhutan

Government Dismisses 47 Civil Servants

BK2109002891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1703 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 20 (AFP)—The four month old Nepali Congress government of Girija Prasad Koirala has dismissed 47 civil servants and promoted 44 others to the vacated posts, an official announcement said.

The dismissed officials included three high-ranking secretaries, along with additional secretaries, first and second class officials and some junior officials.

Secretary for Communications Kalika Prasad Rijal, Secretary for Social Welfare and Labour Ravi Dev Sharma and Secretary for Tourism Madhav Raj Sharma were the three highest-ranking civil servants to lose their jobs.

Koirala took this severe measure to revamp the administration and remove any senior officials regarded as either corrupt or loyal to Nepal's former partyless panchayat system that ended in April 1990, a senior cabinet secretary official said.

The public welcomed the dismissal of the pro-panchayat officials, saying it was a daring move and the correct step for the elected government to take.

Pakistan

Spokesman Rebuts Indian Statement on Kashmir

BK2409162691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] A Foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Indian Government is seeking to give a totally unwarranted meaning to the assurances given by the Pakistan prime minister's special envoy during his recent visit to New Delhi. The spokesman referred to Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's statement on 18 September in which it was claimed that the special envoy assured him that there would be a definite improvement in the situation on the ground in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He said, in fact, that the special envoy tried to emphasize that the Pakistan Government is sincere in discussing all bilateral matters with India in a serious and constructive manner to resolve them on the basis of justice. The spokesman added that a final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is imperative in keeping with this spirit.

The Foreign Office spokesman's attention was also drawn to the statement by Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for external affairs, that the fifth round of India-Pakistan talks at the foreign secretary level, which were scheduled for the middle of September, were postponed because of the delay by Pakistan in holding a meeting on the Sir Creek and Wullar Barrage issues. The spokesman said the two issues are not interrelated. The spokesman said that the request for the postponement of the talks was made by the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad on 12 September on the grounds of the Indian foreign secretary's preoccupation with the Indian Lok Sabha session.

Four Killed in Indian Firing on Kashmir Line

BK2409162091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 24 (AFP)—Four civilians died and five were seriously injured when Indian troops fired on villages along the common frontier in Kashmir, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Tuesday.

The report alleged that the Indians targetted villages at Athmuqam late Monday destroying four houses and a shop and raising the casualty toll this month to 11 killed and 25 injured.

Seven people were killed and 20 wounded in similar "unprovoked" cross-border firing by the Indian froces four days ago, the agency said.

The incidents followed a ceasefire that went into effect along the dividing Line of Control in Kashmir at the start of September after week-long clashes that left an estimated 60 Pakistani and Indian soldiers dead.

APP on Tuesday quoted a top Foreign Ministry official as saying that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was making "sincere efforts to engage India in a serious dialogue to settle the Kashmir dispute."

"India should stop pretending that there is no Kashmir issue," said Foreign Ministry Secretary General Akram Zaki in an interview with APP in New York.

Zaki said Pakistan would make every effort at the U.N. General Assembly to ease the conscience of the international community about "human rights violations" in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Pakistan, which controls the northern one third of the divided Himalayan state, wants the dispute to be settled through a plebiscite mandated by the U.N. after the first Kashmir war between the two countries in 1948.

It vows moral and political support to what it calls the Kashmiris right to self-determination, but India accuses Islamabad of aiding the militants fighting for independence in its only Muslim majority state.

Several thousand people have died in the Indian-controlled part of the state since early last year in violence linked to the separatist campaign.

Kashmir Issue To Be Raised at UN Session

BK2409154291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistan will raise the Kashmir issue before the UN General Assembly and demand that the relevant UN resolutions on the issue are implemented. This was stated by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo in Islamabad today. He said the repressive measures being taken by India in the occupied territory and the horrifying events taking place there will be brought to the notice of the world body.

The minister said he will highlight the prime minister's proposal of 20 June on making South Asia a nuclear-free zone. The minister of state, who will lead the Pakistan delegation to the UN General Assembly, is likely to address the world body on 30 September.

On the U.S.-USSR accord on embargoing arms to the Kabul regime and the Afghan groups, the minister of state said Pakistan wants an overall settlement of the

Afghan problem. Pakistan will try to convince the countries providing assistance to the Afghan refugees to continue their aid program until the honorable and dignified return of the Afghan refugees to their homes.

Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo said Pakistan enjoys good and cordial relations with the Islamic states and will try to further improve them. He said Pakistan is closely watching the events in the Soviet Union, particularly in the republics with which Pakistan has cultural ties.

On relations with India, the minister of state said that the present government wants to improve relations with India so that the government can pay its full attention to the social field and improve the lot of the common people. He added that Pakistan will continue its efforts to improve ties with its eastern neighbors.

Answering a question, the minister of state said that Pakistan will sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty only when India also signs it.

Akram Zaki Stops in Saudi Arabia on Way to UN

BK2209161691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] The secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, left Islamabad for Saudi Arabia today on his way to New York to attend the UN General Assembly session. During his one-day stay in Riyadh, he will hold talks with Saudi leaders on Afghanistan and bilateral matters.

Meets Saudi Foreign Minister

BK2309115091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistani and Saudi Arabian delegations to the United Nations General Assembly will work in close cooperation and concert their positions on Afghanistan, the Kashmir dispute, disarmament, and a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. This was stated at a meeting in Jeddah between the Pakistani secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, and the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. They held consultations on ways to find an early political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. They also reviewed recent developments in Afghanistan, particularly the implementation of negative symmetry announced by the United States and the Soviet Union. They also discussed the fast-changing situation in the Soviet Union and its impact on the future of [word indistinct] Islamic republics.

Meets With UK's Hurd at UN

BK2509045791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign affairs, met with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and exchanged views on the situation in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and matters related to the forthcoming Commonwealth summit meeting. Akram Zaki, who is in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session, apprised Hurd of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's efforts to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully. He informed the British foreign minister of last November's meeting of Pakistani leaders with the then Indian prime minister, Chandra Shekhar, in Male. After the meeting, several steps were taken to create an atmosphere of confidence. In addition, the British Foreign Minister was apprised of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's visit to Delhi last May on the occasion of the funeral ceremony of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, as well as the forthcoming foreign secretary level talks between the two countries. He was also told of the sending of a special representative with a message for Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in which there is a proposal for a meeting between the two prime ministers in Harare on the occasion of the Commonwealth summit conference.

The secretary general said Pakistan is ready to hold bilateral talks with India to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Hurd praised the Pakistani prime minister's efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue through negotiations. Akram Zaki also informed the British foreign minister of the latest situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan's efforts through close consultations with Saudi Arabia for a comprehensive political settlement of the problem.

Song Ping-Led CPC Delegation Continues Visit

Song Discusses Bilateral Ties

BK2309115491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] The leader of the high-power delegation of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr. Song Ping, has said that his current visit to Pakistan will further promote mutual understanding and friendly relations already existing between China and Pakistan and peoples of the two countries. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said China and Pakistan are close friendly neighbors with a profound tradition of friendship. With joint efforts by the governments and peoples of both the countries, these relations have withstood the test of time and become a model of interstate relations.

On Indian Nonproliferation Stand

BK2309162091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] The high-level delegation of the Chinese Communist Party led by Song Ping called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Discussions were held on a wide spectrum of regional and international issues and bilateral ties in a spirit of total harmony and confidence. An identical views of the two leaders were noted on all issues discussed underlining the close relations between

Pakistan and China. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan apprised the PRC delegation of the efforts Pakistan is making to ensure peace and stability in the region and for a peaceful and early settlement of the Kashmir and Afghanistan problems.

Song Ping said the PRC Government highly appreciates the efforts of Pakistan and assured the president of China's continued support in this regard. The Chinese leader appreciated the Pakistani proposal for adopting a regional approach on nonproliferation of [nuclear] weapons and expressed the hope that regional countries, including India, will respond positively to it to ensure a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia.

Visits Lahore 24 Sep

BK2409155391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The leader of visiting 18-member Chinese delegation, Mr. Song Ping, has said that in light of the large-scale changes at international level, Pakistan and China have to play a major role. Addressing a civic reception at the Shalimar Gardens in Lahore this evening, he said the Sino-Pakistan ties are deep rooted and these ties should be further strengthened and consolidated.

China To Set Up Two Thermal Power Stations

BK2109164991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Under an agreement signed in Beijing, China will set up two thermal power units of 201-megawatt capacity at Muzaffargarh at a total cost of $157 million. The agreement was signed by the Water and Power Development Authority chairman and the chief of the Chinese Machinery and Equipment Export Corporation.

New Envoy to China Meets President Ishaq Khan

BK2109165191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Khalid Mahmud, the Pakistan's ambassador-designate to China, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the president house today and sought guidance from him about his new responsibilities. The president stressed the importance of traditional and close bilateral relations with China and asked the envoy to work for further promoting these ties.

President Ishaq Khan To Visit Saudi Arabia

BK2409163091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] It has been officially announced in Islamabad that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will pay an official visit to Saudi Arabia from 7-10 October.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will lead the Pakistani delegation to the Commonwealth conference being held in Harare from the 16-22 October.

Chinese Prime Minister [as heard] Yang Shangkun will pay an official visit to Pakistan from 26-30 October.

Jordanian Group Meets Government Officials

Discusses Kashmir, Afghanistan

BK2309053891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo and the visiting six-member Jordanian parliamentary delegation discussed regional issues, including Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Palestine at a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo briefed the delegation about the Kashmir problem and said Pakistan wants peacefully to solve the problem. He assured the Jordanian delegation of Pakistan's full support for the people of Palestine. Jordanian delegation leader 'Atif al-Butush emphasized the need for unity of the Muslims to face the challenges facing the Islamic community. The delegation expressed keen interest in a solution of the Kashmir problem.

National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan, during a meeting in Islamabad yesterday, also apprised the Jordanian delegation about difficulties being faced by Kashmiris in their freedom struggle. The delegation was also apprised of Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan problem. 'Atif al-Butush said that Jordan fully supports Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Meets President Ishaq Khan

BK2309165291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan emphasized the need for creating greater unity among Islamic countries through cooperative institutions and wider economic integration. He was talking to a visiting six-member Jordanian parliamentary delegation in Islamabad today. The delegation is headed by by 'Atif al-Butush, a member of the lower house of Jordanian parliament. The president reiterated his proposal of evolving a mechanism in the light of Koranic injunctions to resolve disputes between Islamic states. The president made the proposal while addressing the Iranian Majles during his recent visit to Iran.

The leader of the Jordanian delegation appreciated Pakistan's stand on major issues facing the Muslim world and expressed the hope that Pakistan would continue to play an important role in furthering Muslim causes at all forums.

Editorial Views Solution to Afghan Problem

BK2509083891 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Sep 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Peace Prospects Brighter"]

[Text] A major snag in the peace negotiations on Afghanistan has now been removed. According to Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Kabul has agreed to attend the intra-Afghan dialogue without President Najibollah's participation. Until now, the 12-year-old Afghan conflict has evaded a peaceful settlement mainly because of Pakistan's and the Mojahedin's refusal to talk to the rulers in Kabul on the plea that they lacked political legitimacy, being the proteges of the Soviets. In fact, an extraordinary format had to be adopted at the Geneva proximity talks so that Islamabad's representatives were not required to sit face to face with the representatives of the Kabul regime.

Even while welcoming Friday's negative symmetry agreement between the US and the USSR, Pakistan had indicated that it would not like to negotiate with the Afghan President. Now that this condition has been met, there should be no delay in initiating the crucial dialogue. The circumstances could not have been more propitious for such a process. Given the superpower consensus on a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, the regional states should for the first time find themselves in a position to spell out the terms of a political settlement. Pakistan's contention that a peace package embodying all the essential elements of a settlement, including negative symmetry, the transitional set-up and so on, would have been more helpful should not be allowed to come in the way of the dialogue. All the more so because no peace package is possible without substantive negotiations, unless one is imposed from above by the superpowers. This the concerned parties should logically find unacceptable.

In view of the rejection of the American-Soviet accord by three hardline Mojahedin leaders, there might be some reservations about starting the peace process just yet. It is plain that Engineer Hekmatyar, Maulvi Khalis and Prof Sayyaf are still working for a military solution of the Afghan problem. The inadvisability of this approach must be impressed on them. With arms supplies cut off to both sides, the strategic balance would weigh heavily in favour of the established regime in Kabul, which must have stockpiled equipment for future use. Moreover, a military victory, even if possible at all, would not guarantee peace because in that event there would be plenty of scope for the defeated side to confront the new government militarily through guerilla warfare.

Hence, it would be sensible for all the parties in Afghanistan to come round negotiating for peace. Their immediate goal should be to conclude a ceasefire in order to put an end to the futile fighting and unnecessary bloodshed in that strife-torn country. This should be followed by an arrangement for the return of the refugees. The new transitional government which comes to be set up—whether it is a multi-party mechanism or a neutral set-up—should ensure fair and free elections to enable the Afghans to exercise their right to choose their own rulers and form of government. Any move by any party at this stage to circumvent the UN's five-point plan would be disastrous. It would shatter the last chance there is of peace and stability in this troubled region.

Women Move Against Resettling Bihari Muslims

BK2409145291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Reports from Sindh in Pakistan say that women have been participating in large numbers in the campaign against the resettlement of Bihari Muslims from Bangladesh in the province. The Sindhi Nari Tehrik [Women's Movement], the women's wing of the Jiye Sindh Progressive Party, has been organizing a series of processions to draw attention to the continued suppression of the Sindhis in Pakistan.

Sindhi nationalists have been critical of Islamabad's moves to change the character of the city by resettling a large number of Bihari Muslims from Bangladesh there.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa's 24 Sep Parliament Speech Detailed

BK2409114691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa ceremonially inaugurated the fourth session of the second parliament at 1040 this morning. As customary, the speaker and the prime minister arrived at the parliament first. At 1020, the president was welcomed by the speaker and the secretary general of parliament. The president then hoisted the presidential flag and was escorted in a procession to the chamber of parliament. The secretary general read out the proclamation summoning parliament, and thereafter the president addressed parliament.

Everyone is bound to uphold the Constitution now in force. President Premadasa proclaimed that until it was changed constitutionally, everyone was bound to uphold it. The president said that though adverse criticism has been hurled against him about an impending impeachment motion, it has still not been declared. It is accepted in our country that until an accused is proved guilty, he is innocent. Just because an accusation has been made, that individual does not automatically become an accused. The president said that he had done no wrong and everyone is aware that he is not an accused.

The president once again reminded the members about the declaration made in April in connection with establishing peace and normalcy in the country. He said it was the government's policy to resolve problems through peaceful means. He said everyone is bound to find a political solution to the northeast problem. He explained that everyone was defeated in battle, but in peace all were victorious. The president reiterated that he always sought to resolve problems through consultation, consensus, and compromise. He said that action should be taken with determination to resolve the mistrust and

suspicion which has prevailed for a very long time. The president said the government is prepared to take necessary action to mete out justice to all sections of the community and to bring about any required changes. This is the only way to build up a united Sri Lanka. The president emphasized that once again the government was inviting all relevant sectors to the negotiating table. The president recalled how a parliamentary select committee was appointed to find solutions to these problems and expressed his thanks to all parties concerned. He said this committee would be able to asertain the views of all parties represented in parliament. Due to the prevailing security situation in the country, the provincial council elections had to be postponed. But they were held in May last year. He said that these posts provided the leadership necessary to expedite the development process in the country.

The president stressed that he had never purchased lands by illegal means and he had never acted in any way to lose his civic rights. He further said that he had never refused to appear before the presidential commission.

Further on Speech, 'Pandemonium'

BK2409135291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpts] President Ranasinghe Premadasa ceremonially inaugurated the fourth session of the second parliament at 1040 this morning. As customary, the speaker and the prime minister arrived in the parliament first. At 1020, the president was welcomed by the speaker and the secretary general of the parliament. [passage omitted]

Pandemonium reigned in the house this morning when the fourth session of the parliament was declared open by President Ranasinghe Premadasa to the applause of government members. However, from the moment that the president rose to deliver his address, opposition members created a din and bustling, shouting down the president at every point. As the speaker tried to restore calm and order by shouting out all appeals, the opposition continued with its verbal onslaught from the front and the rear of the house, much to the speaker's annoyance. When the president finally concluded his speech, the speaker said: I owe an apology to his excellency, the president, for the indecorous behavior of some members of the opposition this morning. I was given a firm undertaking that the members of the opposition will make their views known by making [word indistinct] statements only, and that there will be no disturbances. I regret that the opposition has failed to keep their undertaking given to me.

It was a complete breakdown of law and order in the house and the opposition was taken to task by the speaker for openly insulting and bringing down the dignity and decorum of the house.

In his address, President Ranasinghe Premadasa said that everyone is bound to uphold the Constitution now in force. Until it is changed constitutionally, everyone was legally bound by it. [passage omitted]

Mr. Premadasa recalled how a handful of dissidents held the late Mr. S.W.R.B. Banadaranaike to ransom, preventing him from implementing his policies and ultimately murdered him.

The president said that the government has taken action to set up 200 fully equipped centers to expedite development at pradeshiya [district] level. All types of medium-scale machinery and equipment will be provided to these centers. The president declared that the expectations of those who attempt to mislead the people when the government was making every effort to implement this program of work were doomed to fail.

The president recalled that after the general elections in March 1989, he had sent a letter to the speaker regarding certain reforms to strengthen the parliamentary system. Mr. Premadasa said that he had drawn the speaker's attention to the needs for these reforms and a select committee had been appointed for this purpose. The president referred that the interim reports had been compiled, but, the president added, that no progress had been made regarding the findings of these reports.

Speaking about the rate of development in Sri Lanka, the president said that the gross national product increased to 6.6 percent in 1990. It was an appreciable increase when compared to the previous year. In 1989, there was only a 2.3 percent increase in the GNP. Entrepreneurs and investors have expressed faith in these policies of the government and the economy is improving, confirming the feasibility of the government's economic policy. Coconut and rubber production has somewhat declined, but minor export crops have shown an appreciable increase during the first quarter of this year. The government is making every effort to get the best prices for farmers. Private sector industries have recorded a growth of 14 percent, while in the state sector production has decreased by 13 percent. The president said that with the decrease in the consumer price index, the rate of development has shown a considerable increase. The progress in the export sector is tremendous. Nontraditional exports have also registered a significant increase.

Report on Antiaircraft Guns for LTTE Denied

BK2409121191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Ministry of Defense categorically denied the issue of antiaircraft gun to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] as reported in the ISLAND, the DIVAINA, and the LANKADIPA newspapers yesterday. The Ministry of Defense regretted that a great deal of misinformation and unfounded rumors, which create misunderstanding among the public, are being spread about the activities of the security forces and defense authorities. The Ministry of Defense considers it necessary to place some official information before the

public at the present time when the security forces are engaged in a war against the LTTE and should not be demoralized in their efforts. The Defense Ministry release says the false propaganda is that the defense authorities had given weapons to the LTTE to attack our own forces, including 17 antiaircraft weapons. This in itself is ridiculous.

The Defense Ministry wishes to recall the situation which prevailed in the country in 1989 and early 1990. At that time, the Northeastern Provincial Council was under the control of Mr. Varadaraja Perumal. A so-called Tamil National Army [TNA] was being formed under Tamil National Council. The objective was to recruit at least 20,000 cadres to the TNA. The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] was at that time in a state of phased withdrawal. In terms of the request made by the president of Sri Lanka, the IPKF was in the process of running down its establishment and reducing its forces in the north and east.

Adviser Assures Muslims of Security in Mannar

BK2409122091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Indian newspapers reported that despite assurances given by Sri Lanka for the return of Tamil and Muslim refugees, including those who have fled to India, a large number of the 40,000 Muslims who fled Mannar District were reluctant to return to their home as they feared attacks by the Tigers. Presidential Adviser Bradman Weerakoon, according to the Indian newspapers, said the security forces have cleared Mannar area and established small camps to guard against any future attacks by the LTTE. The Indian newspapers further reported that India has already submitted a list of 6,800 refugees with addresses including those of 160 from Mannar. He added that they could come back as soon as Indian authorities make arrangements at their end.